HEY THERE.

IT SEEMS I ENDED UP MAKING YOU WAIT, MY APOLOGIES.

.....

HEY NOW, HEY NOW.

YOU'RE A PROFESSIONAL PLAYER JUST LIKE ME RIGHT?

PUT THAT INELEGANT TOOL AWAY.

YOU'RE FROM THE ZEROZAKI FAMILY AREN'T YOU.

.....

HEH HEH.

YOU SEE, I'M A MAN THAT'S MORE LIKE A WHITE PIGEON WHO LOVES PEACE AND JUSTICE MORE THAN ANYTHING.

SO IF YOU WITHDRAW HERE I'LL FORGET WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW.

EVEN AMONG THE ZEROZAKIS, I'M AN EXTRAORDINARY ECCENTRICITY.

A SO-CALLED PEACEFUL, RIGHTEOUS MAN YOU COULD SAY.

I NEVER MET YOU, AND YOU NEVER MET ME.

HOW'S THAT SOUND?

IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT, OF COURSE THERE'S ENOUGH ROOM TO ESTABLISH AN EXCHANGE FOR YOUR LIFE ISN'T THERE?

ﾅｲﾌ

IN THAT CASE——

ﾅｲﾌﾅｲﾌﾅｲﾌ

PEOPLE WILL EVENTUALLY DIE, BUT EVEN IF THAT'S THE CASE I DON'T THINK THERE'S A NEED TO RUSH TOWARDS IT.

WELL ...

CAN'T BE HELPED HUH?

...

ZEROZAKI SOUSHIKI'S HUMAN EXAM

Manga • Shiomiya Iruka
Original Work • Nishio Ishin



Chapter 0 "Zerozaki Soushiki"

The zero era's never-before seen stylish action, with a beautiful finale • appended!!

NISHIN ISHIN × SHIOMIYA IRUKA

The "Zerosaki Family"—That is the family of cutthroat murderers that ranks 3rd among the "Killer Names."
"What" awaits on the course of their conflict—!?

LET'S SUPPOSE, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT THERE EXISTS A CUTTHROAT MURDERER.

TO KEEP IN LINE WITH A MURDERER'S REASON FOR EXISTENCE, HE KILLS A PERSON.

IN THIS CASE, IT DOESN'T EVEN NEED TO BE SAID THAT THE CUTTHROAT MURDERER IS "BAD."

THEN, IN THE CASE THAT THE CUTTHROAT MURDERER IS CAUGHT AND SENTENCED TO THE DEATH PENALTY,

OF COURSE YOU COULD SAY THE CUTTHROAT MURDERER'S ACTIONS WERE "BAD."

BUT WHAT IF THAT WAS A FALSE ACCUSATION?

IN THIS CASE THE LEGAL SYSTEM IS "BAD."

OR POSSIBLY,

THE INVESTIGATOR OR JUDGE WAS "STUPID."

BUT IF WE SUPPOSE THAT INVESTIGATOR WAS STRUCK AND KILLED BY A METEORITE IN AN UNRELATED PLACE,

THE INVESTIGATOR WAS WITHOUT A DOUBT "UNLUCKY."

UHH ...

THAT SO?

WHERE NO ROOM EXISTS FOR GOOD INTENTIONS OR COMMON SENSE.

THERE'S THE NOTION THAT "EVIL" CLOSELY FOLLOWS A "PERSON'S DEATH,"

THE ONLY THING A PERSON'S DEATH HAS IS——

SO THAT'S REDUNDANT.

HOWEVER, IN STORIES WHERE PEOPLE DIE, ONLY "VILLAINS" MAKE AN APPEARANCE,

"EVIL."

.....

BUT YOU KNOW OLD MAN,

NOTHING ELSE.

ONLY "EVIL,"

THAT'S RIGHT.

ONLY "EVIL?"

"I'D BE BETTER OFF IF I DIED"

"I'D BE SAVED IF I DIED"

YOU'VE GOT THOSE SITUATIONS TOO DON'T YOU?

IF I WERE TO RESPOND TO YOUR REBUTTAL,

OLD MAN ...

THAT SITUATION ITSELF WHERE "IT'D BE BETTER IF I DIED" WOULD BE "EVIL."

OLD MAN ...

——THAT'S WHY YOU... UM...

WHAT DID YOU SAY YOUR NAME WAS?

TSUGE JION.

UM ...

I SEE !

JION... JION, IS IT. THAT'S A GOOD NAME.

IT'S A NAME THAT SPEAKS TO YOUR FATHER'S PERSONALITY. ABSOLUTELY WONDERFUL.

OKAY ...

SEE HERE, JION-KUN.



ORIGINALLY, THE WORLD WAS FULL OF "EVIL" EXISTENCES WHICH COULD SIMPLY BE EXPRESSED AS "EVIL."

THIS THING CALLED HUMAN LIFE IS SORT OF LIKE SECLUDING YOURSELF AND GOING ABOUT YOUR DAILY ROUTINE IN ROOM WITH LAND MINES STREWN ABOUT HERE AND THERE.
SOCIAL WITHDRAWAL WITH YOUR LIFE ON THE LINE, THAT IS HUMAN LIFE ITSELF.

EVEN DOING NOTHING IN PARTICULAR, HUMANS WILL END UP MEETING "SOMETHING BAD" WITH ABOUT THE SAME PROBABILITY AS STOPPING AT A TRAFFIC LIGHT.

YOU MUSN'T FORGET THIS.
IF YOU DON'T WANT TO DIE, YOU MUSTN'T DEVIATE FROM THE TWO WORDS "NATURAL" AND "ORDINARY."

JUST LIKE "EVIL," SOMETHING SUCH AS REASONS TO DIE ARE SCATTERED ALL OVER THE WORLD.
IF THAT'S THE CASE, THERE'S NO NEED WHATSOEVER FOR YOU YOURSELF TO BECOME THAT "EVIL," AND FURTHERMORE DOUBLE THE PROBABILITY THAT YOU'LL WIND UP DEAD.

AS A LIVING PERSON, WANTING TO KILL YOURSELF IS THE LOWEST OF LOW THOUGHTS.
THAT ACTION ISN'T EVEN AN ESCAPE.

PEOPLE SHOULD CONITNUE TO LIVE ON AS LONG AS THEY CAN STAY ALIVE.
NO MATTER WHAT FATE THEY CARRY, NO MATTER WHAT SINS THEY HAVE COMMITTED, PEOPLE THAT ARE ALIVE ARE PEOPLE THAT SHOULD LIVE.
ESPECIALLY WHEN THEY HAVE AN OBJECTIVE THEY MUST ACHIEVE.

世界とは何でなければならないというもの、『悪』という概念に満ちている。

...
I SEE NOW.

IF I WAS AROUND YOUR AGE, I WOULDN'T BE THINKING ABOUT THIS KIND OF THING I GUESS.

"IN THE FUTURE, IF I WORKED I WOULDN'T WANT TO BECOME A SUIT AND NECKTIE"

OR SOME-THING LIKE THAT.

WHY? IT'S JUST A JOKE ISN'T IT?

IT DIFFERS TOO MUCH FROM PERSON TO PERSON.

—— BUT IN THAT SENSE, I CAN'T REALLY RECOMMEND ANY ACTION EVEN THOUGH I'M CHATTERING ON AND ON.

NO...

THAT'S NOT...

NO NO NO, I DON'T MIND.

THERE'S NO NEED TO MIND ME.

NO MATTER WHAT THE TIME PERIOD, KIDS WANT TO BECOME SPORTS PLAYERS OR MUSICIANS,

AND THEY HATE SUITS AND NECKTIES.

ALL BECAUSE IT'S THE "ORDINARY" THAT'S COMMONPLACE OF COURSE.

THEY'RE INSTINCTIVELY FEARFUL TOWARDS BEING "THE SAME AS SOMEONE ELSE,"

IN OTHER WORDS THEY DISLIKE A LACK OF PERSONALITY, OR NO PERSONALITY AT ALL.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND THIS FEELING AT ALL.

"ORDINARY"

—— EVEN THOUGH THAT WOULD BE THE MOST WONDERFUL THING...

JION-KUN... THIS THING CALLED "ORDINARY" YOU SEE, MEANS "NOT BEING A BOTHER TO STRANGERS."

ABNORMAL PEOPLE WILL TAKE THAT DIRECTIVITY FOR BETTER OR WORSE AND END UP HURTING THOSE STRANGERS.

THE RESULT OF THAT IS THEY END UP HURTING THEMSELVES AS WELL—— A REFRAIN OF HARM, IF YOU WILL.

THAT'S WHY "ORDINARY" AND "OBVIOUS" ARE VERY BLESSED THINGS,

BOTH TO THE PERSON AND THEIR SURROUNDINGS.

I'M NOT "NORMAL" THOUGH, THEREFORE THE PHENOMENA THAT ARISE GENERALLY TEND TOWARD THE NEGATIVE SIDE.

HAPPINESS,

AT THE END OF THE DAY,

IS GETTING ALONG WITH THE PEOPLE AROUND YOU.

...

IN OTHER WORDS,

HAVING SOMETHING LIKE TALENT IS COMPLETELY USELESS IF YOU DON'T GET ALONG WITH PEOPLE?

YOU COULD SAY IT BECOMES A HINDRANCE EVEN.

THAT'S WHY I MAKE USE OF THIS UNIVERSALLY AGREEABLE FASHION, AS YOU CAN SEE.

BUT IN THIS WORLD THERE ALSO EXIST IDIOTS WHO DON'T UNDERSTAND THIS.

FOR EXAMPLE, MY YOUNGER BROTHER IS LIKE THAT——

JUST AROUND YOUR AGE, ABOUT 150CM TALL.

DYED HAIR, WITH THE BACK TIED UP.

A CELLPHONE STRAP ON HIS EAR,

AND A BIG TATTOO ON HIS FACE.

HE MIGHT POSSIBLY BE WEARING SUNGLASSES AS WELL.

ALSO, IT SEEMS LIKE HE'S TRYING TO BE FASHIONABLE, BUT HE'S PACKING KNIVES ALL OVER HIS BODY.

FROM THE START, HE'S ALWAYS BEEN A GUY THAT LIKES TO WANDER ABOUT.

TO BE HONEST, I'M ACTUALLY IN THE MIDDLE OF SEARCHING FOR THAT BROTHER WHO'S CURRENTLY RUNNING AWAY FROM HOME.

...WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT? IS HE BY ANY CHANCE A CUTTHROAT MURDERER OR SOMETHING?

DUE TO SOME CIRCUMSTANCES, THAT CAN'T BE DONE YOU SEE. HE'S AN ANNOYING LITTLE BROTHER WITH VARIOUS PROBLEMS.

OH NO,

SHOULDN'T YOU LEAVE THAT SORT OF THING TO THE POLICE OR DETECTIVES?

TO BE CALLED THAT, HE'D HAVE TO PILE UP A BIT MORE STUDY UNDER ME OF COURSE.

THERE'S MANY DANGERS IN THIS WORLD AND DURING SUMMER AFTER ALL.

THAT'D BE RUDE TO CUTTHROAT KILLERS.

OH NO, OH NO.

HE'S NOT THAT BIG A DEAL.

.....

HM?

NOPE... IF I HAD MET SOMEONE THAT PLEASANT EVEN ONCE I WOULDN'T FORGET, IF POSSIBLE I'D NEVER WANT TO——

THIS IS A GOOD CHANCE, SO I'LL ASK FOR THE TIME BEING.

HAVE... YOU EVER SEEN MY BROTHER BEFORE?

AT THE VERY LEAST I KNOW WHERE MY FAMILY IS, BY INTUITION.

...

INTUITION?

I CERTAINLY HAVE NO INFORMATION BUT——

UH-OH

YOU'RE SHARP LIKE A GREAT DETECTIVE, BUT YOUR AIM IS OFF, ALSO LIKE A GREAT DETECTIVE.

IF YOU'RE QUESTIONING ME, THAT MEANS YOU'VE ALREADY GOT A **GUESS**?

EVEN IF YOU SEARCHED ALL OVER THE WORLD, I'M SURE YOU WOULDN'T FIND A FAMILY THAT GETS ALONG AS WELL AS OURS.

OUR FAMILY IS BOUND BY THAT SORT OF CONNECTION YOU SEE, AND WE WON'T TOLERATE OTHER ALLEGIANCES.

"COLLECTIVE UNCONSCIOUS"

ORIGINALLY, THIS THING CALLED A FAMILY WAS——

SERIOUS-LY?——

I CAN BE PROUD OF.

A FAMILY THAT

WELL, JION-KUN.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE YET, SO PLEASE GO TO SCHOOL.

SKIPPING SCHOOL IS QUITE A "BAD" THING.

THE EXIT IS ON THE RIGHT SIDE.

……

WE'LL SOON BE ARRIVING IN RYOUHOU TOWN, RYOUHOU TOWN.

IF I GO IT'S FINE RIGHT? I'LL JUST GO——

GOT IT, I GOT IT.

……

HEH.

THAT'S GOOD... IT SEEMS THAT YOU "PASS."

YES, YES!

THAT'S WHAT I EXPECT OF THE PERSON WHO BEARS THE NAME JION.

YOUR NAME... I STILL HAVEN'T ASKED IT YET.

...BY THE WAY,

WHAT?

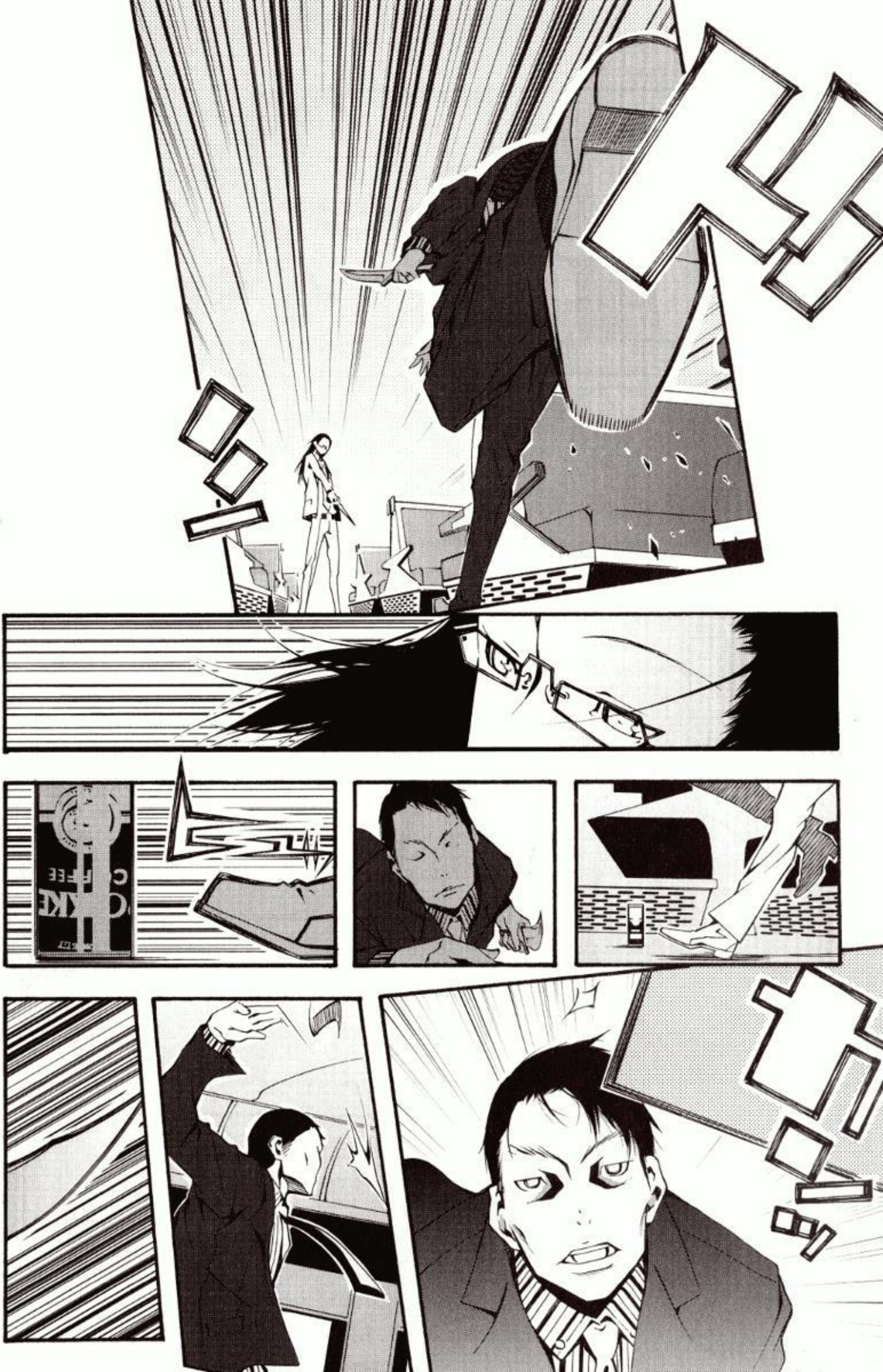
OH, NOTHING. JUST TALKING TO MYSELF.

ZEROZAKI

SOUSHIKI.

BE WARY OF THE WORLD.

WELL THEN,





THERE'S SOMETHING I DON'T COMPREHEND THOUGH.

!?

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE ZEROZAKI FAMILY TO BE TARGETED FOR ANY REASON AT ALL.

EVEN IF THERE WERE NO GROUNDS ON WHICH THE ZEROZAKI FAMILY WAS BEING TARGETED,

.....

WITH THIS SO-CALLED ZEROZAKI NAME.

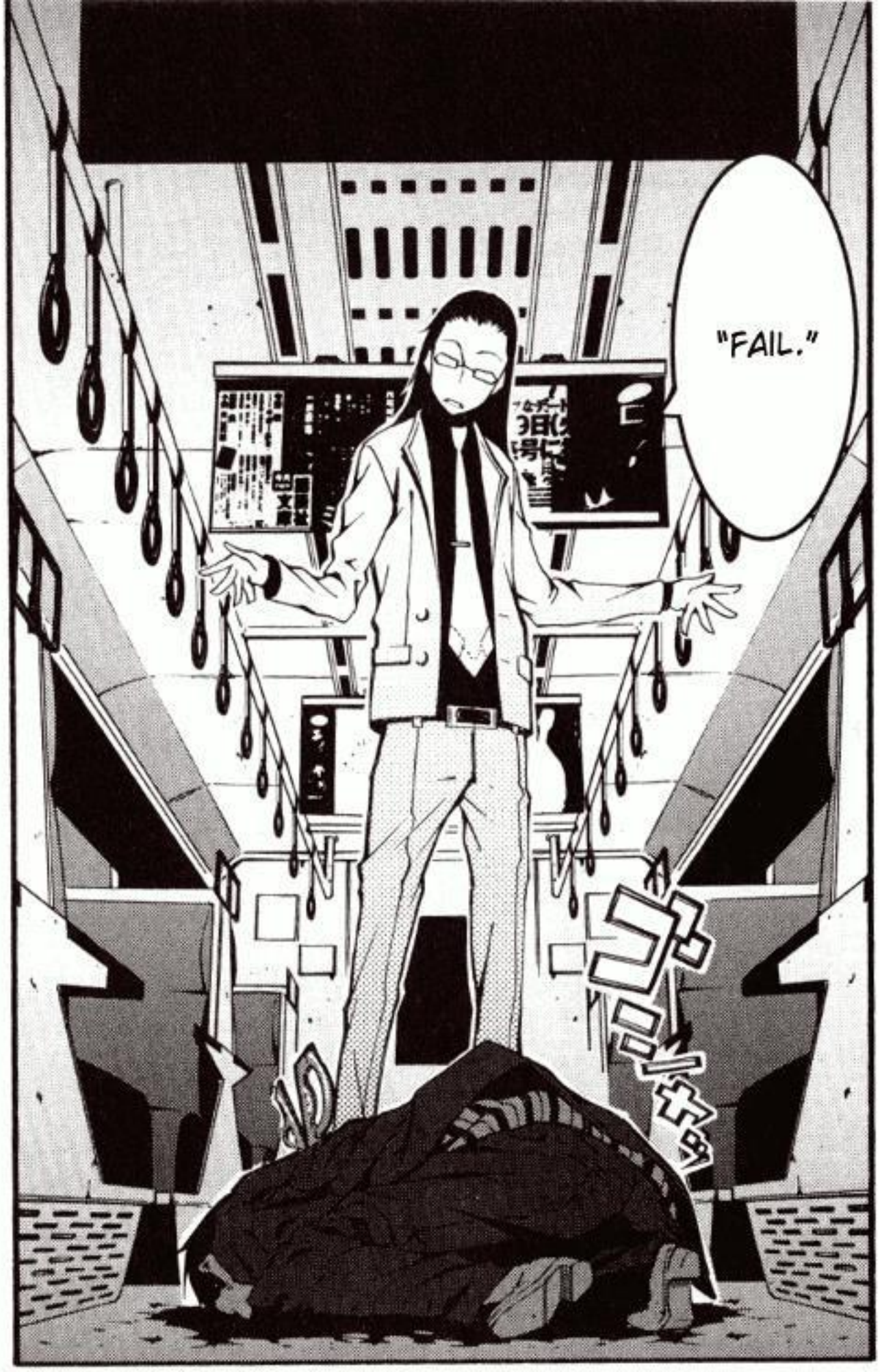
AFTER ALL, "THAT'S JUST HOW IT IS" IN THE FIRST PLACE



OOPS.

OH MY.

AS EXPECTED, YOU——



GEEZ
...

MY BROTHER'S SO CLOSE BY,

THIS ISN'T THE TIME TO BE DOING THESE KINDS OF THINGS.

Tsuge Jion — Pass

Sawagishi Tokuhiko — Fail

To Be Continued Next PANDORA!

超新連載！

零崎双識の人間試験

「物語」は疾走する。「日常」を切り裂いて。

西尾維新、初登場！









な「試験」を。「我々」は突き付ける。立ちすくんだままの「君」に。痛烈にして大胆な「試験」を。「我々」は突き付ける。立ちすくんだままの

THERE CERTAIN-LY EXIST

THOSE WHO DENY

THOSE WHO INTER-FERE

THOSE WHO ABANDON

THOSE WHO STEAL AND LOOK DOWN AND SNEER

YES THIS IS---

A STORY ABOUT

EVIL

可能性を切り拓く超新連載100ページ!!!

西尾維新

nishio Ishin

稀代のストーリーテラー

シオミヤイルカ

shiomiyairuka

破格の新鋭コンビ

人間試験

漫画 シオミヤイルカ

キャラクター原案 竹

これがエンタメ！ これが漫画の力!!

月刊アフタヌーン
Monthly Afternoon

ルール無用の真・剣・勝・負!!

青春よ、「試練」を越えろ。

零崎双識ゼロ

原作 西尾維新
（講談社ノベルス
「零崎双識の人間試験」より）

無桐
m-utoh

IORI

ふぅ…

ふぅ…

ふぅ…

OH...

OH MY

KENGO-NIISAMA...

GOOD... GOOD MORNING

.....

TO CONTINUE PERSER-VING IN HER STUDIES, YOUR BELOVED LITTLE SISTER IORI-CHAN

ビシッ

WILL TODAY PROCEED TO SCHOOL AS WELL

I'M OFF!

HOLD IT

ACK

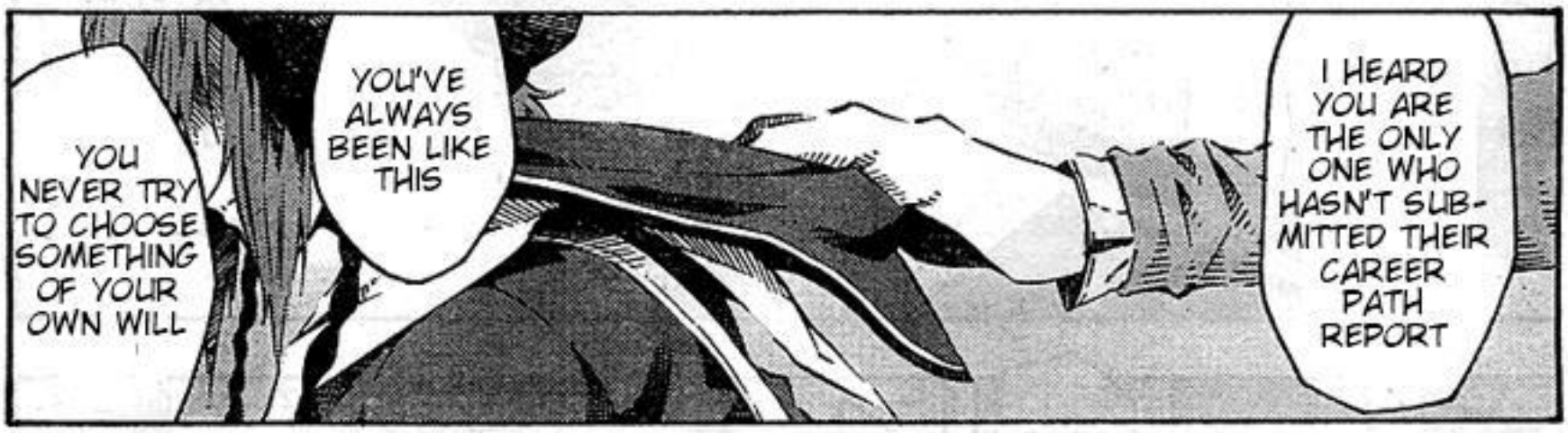
零崎双識の人間試験

作者近況

西尾維新

アフタヌーン読者のみなさま、こんにちは。この漫画の原作小説を書いた西尾維新という者です。自分の書いた「活字」が、これからどんな「絵画」へと変化するのか、今はただただ、とても楽しみです。原作小説には映像不可能みたいな場面も結構ありますしね…あのシーンとか、本当にどうなるのかな。ともあれ「零崎双識の人間試験」、よろしくお願い致します。







この作品はフィクションです。実在の人物・団体などとは一切関係ありません。

いい男とはこういうことだ！

休憩中に缶コーヒーをオゴってくれるときに2本買ってくれる先輩。いわく「1本は今飲んで、1本は仕事が終わったあとに飲んで」……カッコイイです。

愛知県・高木一幸(30)さ・社会人



零崎双識の人間試験

それでは始めよう。悪を。愛を。青春を!!

作者近況

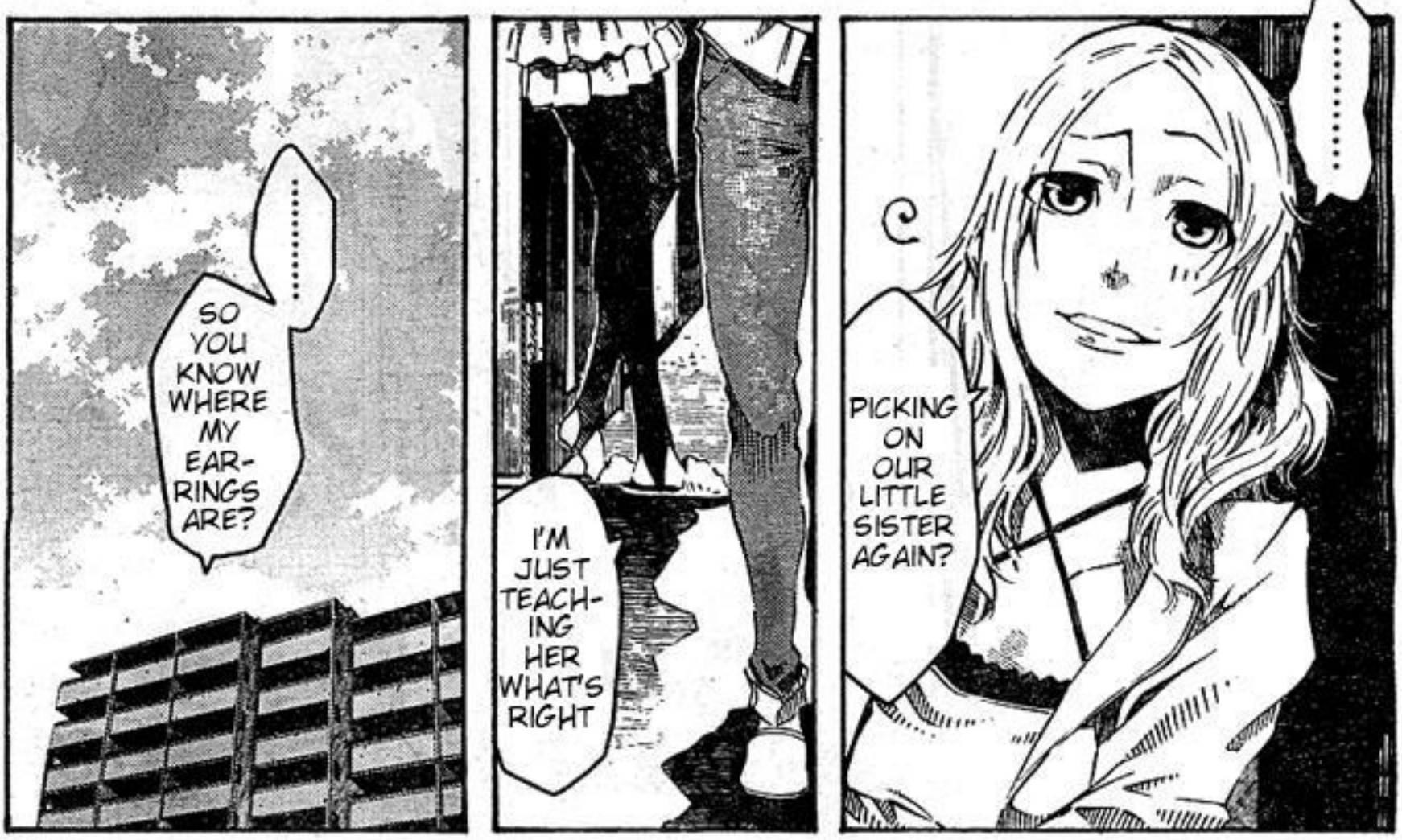
シオミヤイルカ

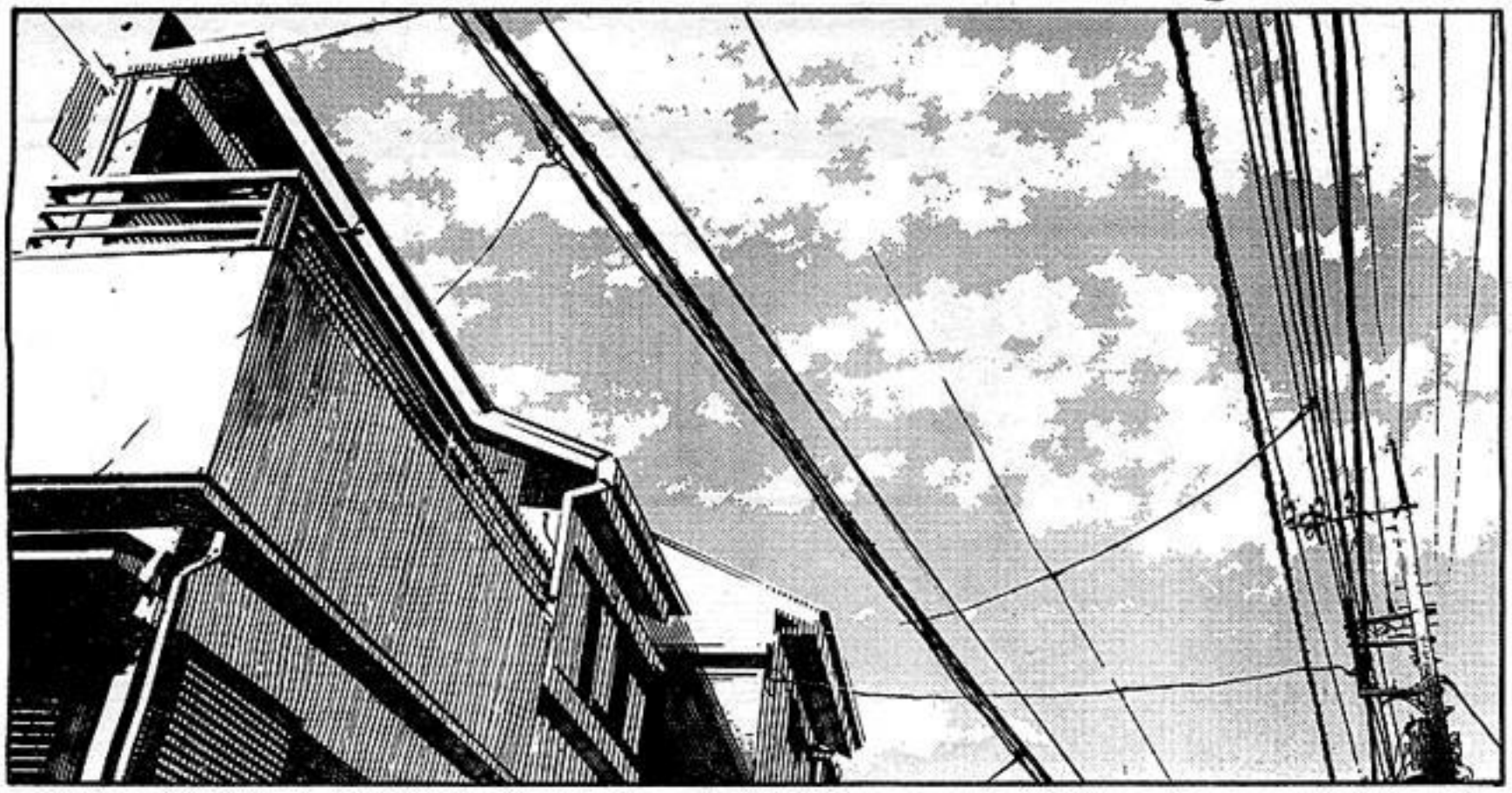
マックでコーヒーを飲みながらネームが出来るくらいには生活が安定してきました。ポテトを買うほどの余裕はまだありません。

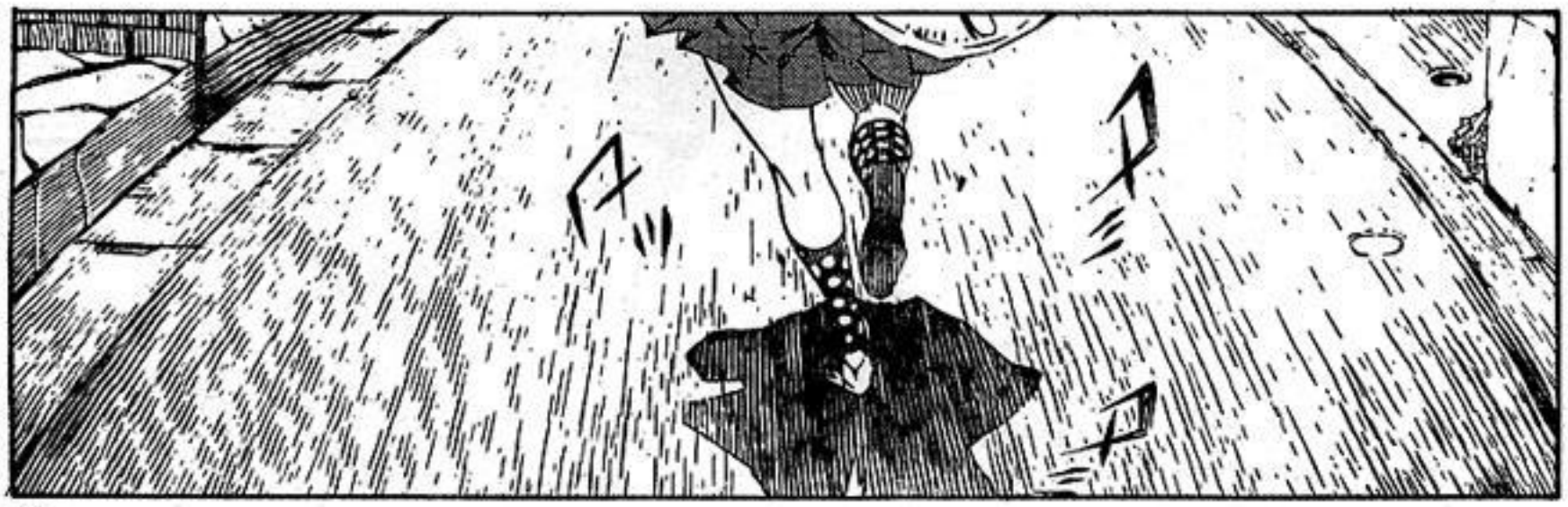


11









12







いい男とはこういうことだ!!

いい男の条件は、もちろん私より背が高い人!!　私、身長178cmあるので……。

香川県・オーノー㉒♀・社会人

I'VE ALWAYS BEEN CONSTANTLY RUNNING THESE 17 YEARS

I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT I'M RUNNING FROM

JUST, SOME-THING

IF, IN THE END IT MANAGES TO CATCH UP WITH ME

THEN EVERY-THING WILL CHANGE

THAT IS THE FEEL-ING I GET

AND THAT'S WHY I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO RUN FROM EVER-THING

NICE EXUSE HUH...

WAH





14





28

いい男を目指す友人。彼のメアドには「dandy」という一言が盛り込まれていた。

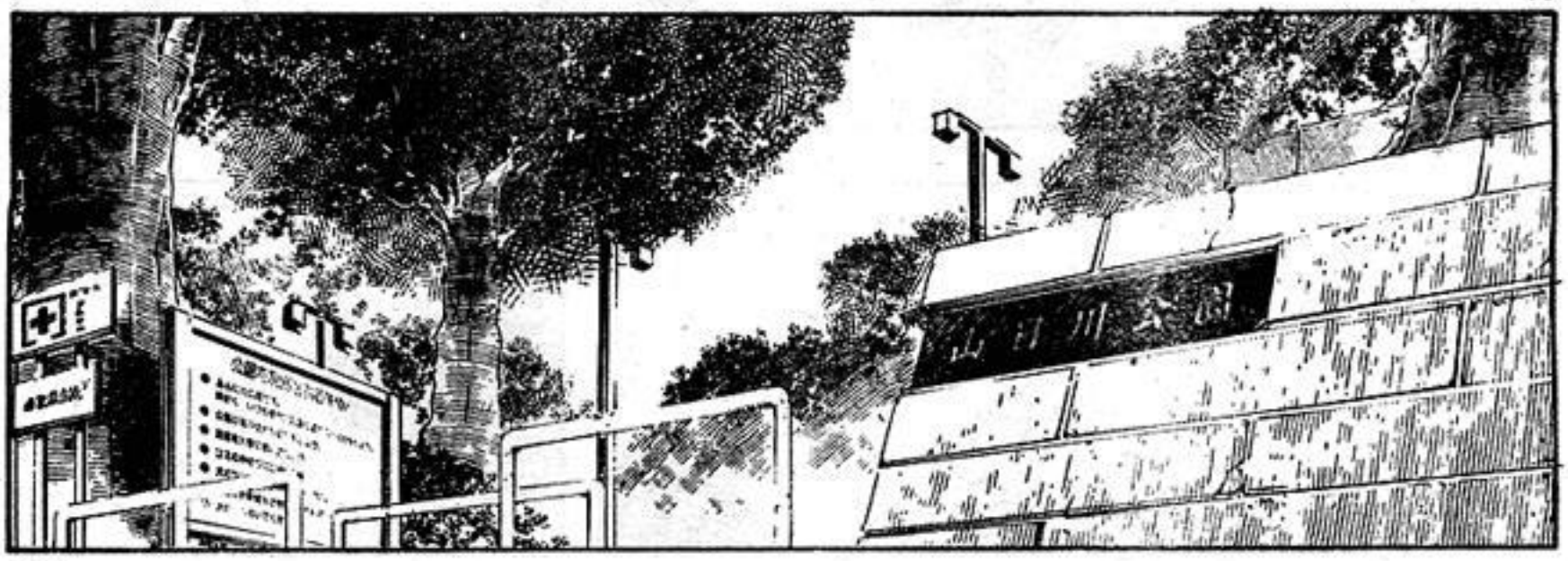
長野県・エビタフ㈱さ・社会人

連載スタート記念！**西尾維新×シオミヤイルカ豪華直筆サイン色紙プレゼント**

詳しい情報は巻末プレゼント頁へ！



15



29

いい男とはこういうことだ！
スシに行くと必ずオゴってくれる先輩。全品百円だけど「好きなの食えやっ！」と頼もしい言葉。
新潟県・廿楽(20)♂・社会人



大人気御礼！
原作ノベルス
西尾維新『零崎双識の人間試験』絶賛発売中！
講談社ノベルスより
定価：1365円(税込)



LET GO

……?

PLEASE LET GO OF MY HAND

SOME-THING IS GOING TO CHANGE …

何かを変えてしまう……

18

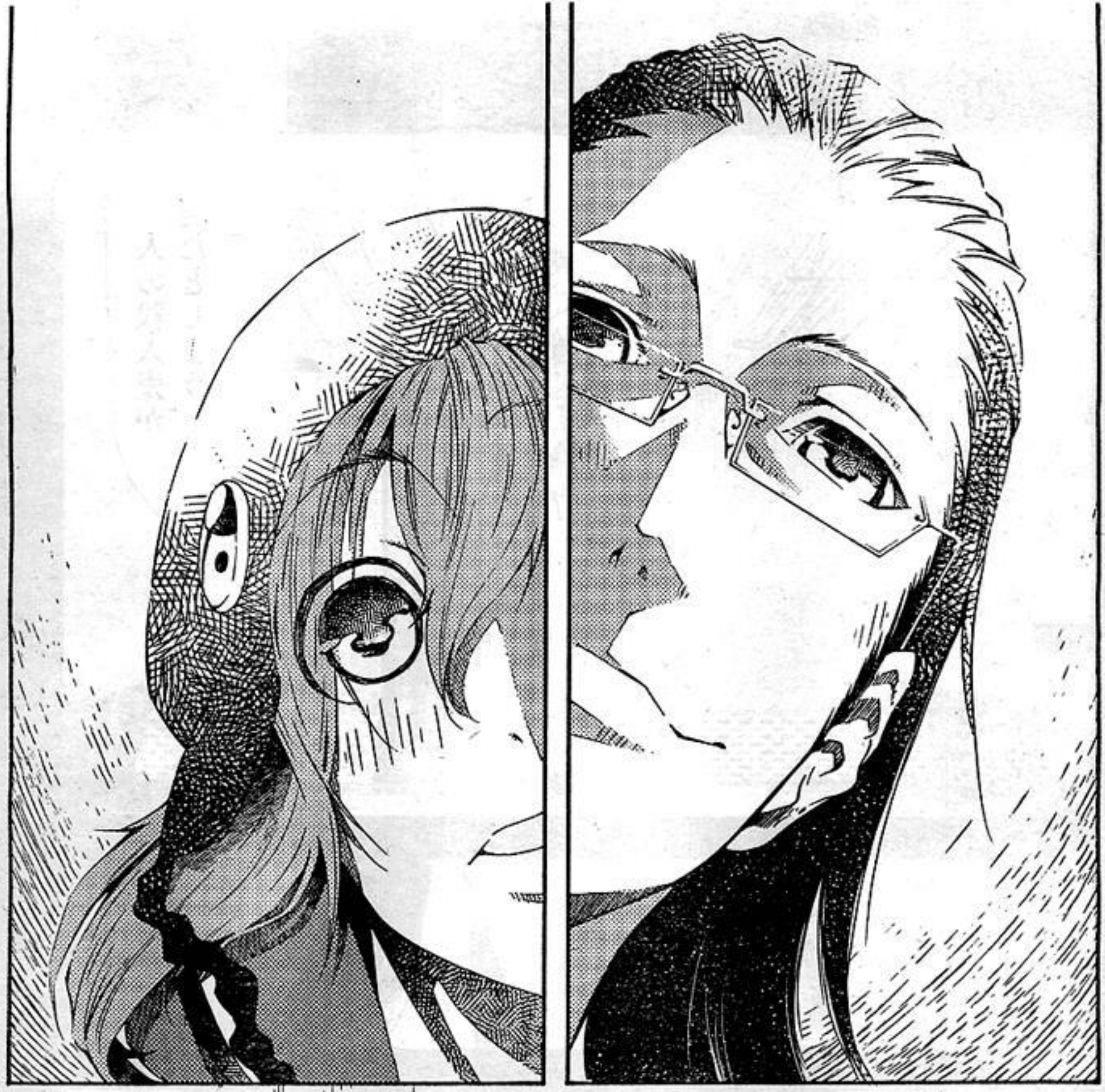
23

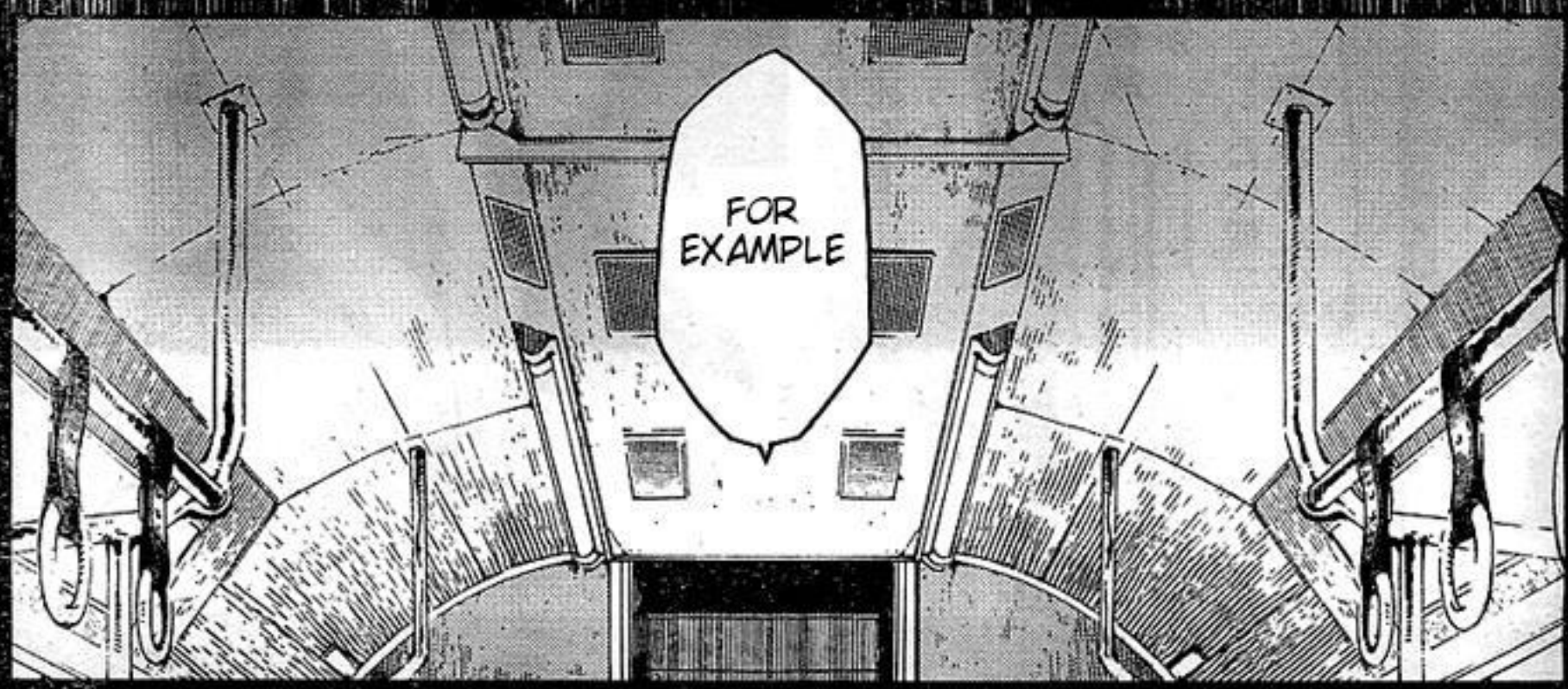
零崎双識の人間試験






MY LOVELY YOUNG LADY




FOR
EXAMPLE

LET'S ASSUME THAT A MURDERER WAS HERE

WHY DID THEY DIE?

WHY DID THINGS TURN OUT SO **BAD**LY

..WHY BEC-AUSE

HE KILLED AND PEOPLE DIED OF COURSE

HE KILLS IN HIS COMPLIANCE WITH HIS OWN RAISON D'ETERE

90% of the wordplay in this chapter is based around
「悪」 which can be translated to "evil", "bad", by itself and "wrong", "unlucky", etc. when used in different contexts.

THE MURDER-ER WHO KILLED THEM

WAS **BAD** OF COURSE

THE MURDERER'S DEEDS WERE **BAD**

THIS TIME LET US ASSUME THE MURDERER WAS CAPTURED AND SENTEN-CED TO DEATH

IT HARDLY NEEDS SAYING BUT THIS WAS OF COURSE BECAUSE

BUT WHAT IF

WHAT IF IT WAS A FALSE CHARGE? THEN WHAT?

IF THIS MURDERER REALLY HADN'T KILLED ANYONE

AND WAS EXECUTED FOR SIMPLY BEING CALLED 'A MURDERER'

THEN IT WAS THE LEGAL SYSTEM'

OR PERHAPS THE MIND OF THE INVEST-IGATOR AND THE JUDGE

THAT WAS **BAD**

OR SOMETHING TO THAT EFFECT

THAT WAS BEYOND ANY DOUBT

LET US ASSUME THAT AFTERWOODS, IN A PLACE UNRELATED TO THIS CASE

SAID INVESTIGATOR WAS CRUSHED BY A METEORITE AND DIED

BAD LUCK

SIMP-LY PUT

YOU SHOULD ALL KNOW WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT BY NOW

THERE IS NOT A SINGLE MILILIMETER OF SPACE TO SPARE FOR GOOD WILL OR GOOD SENSE TO ENTER

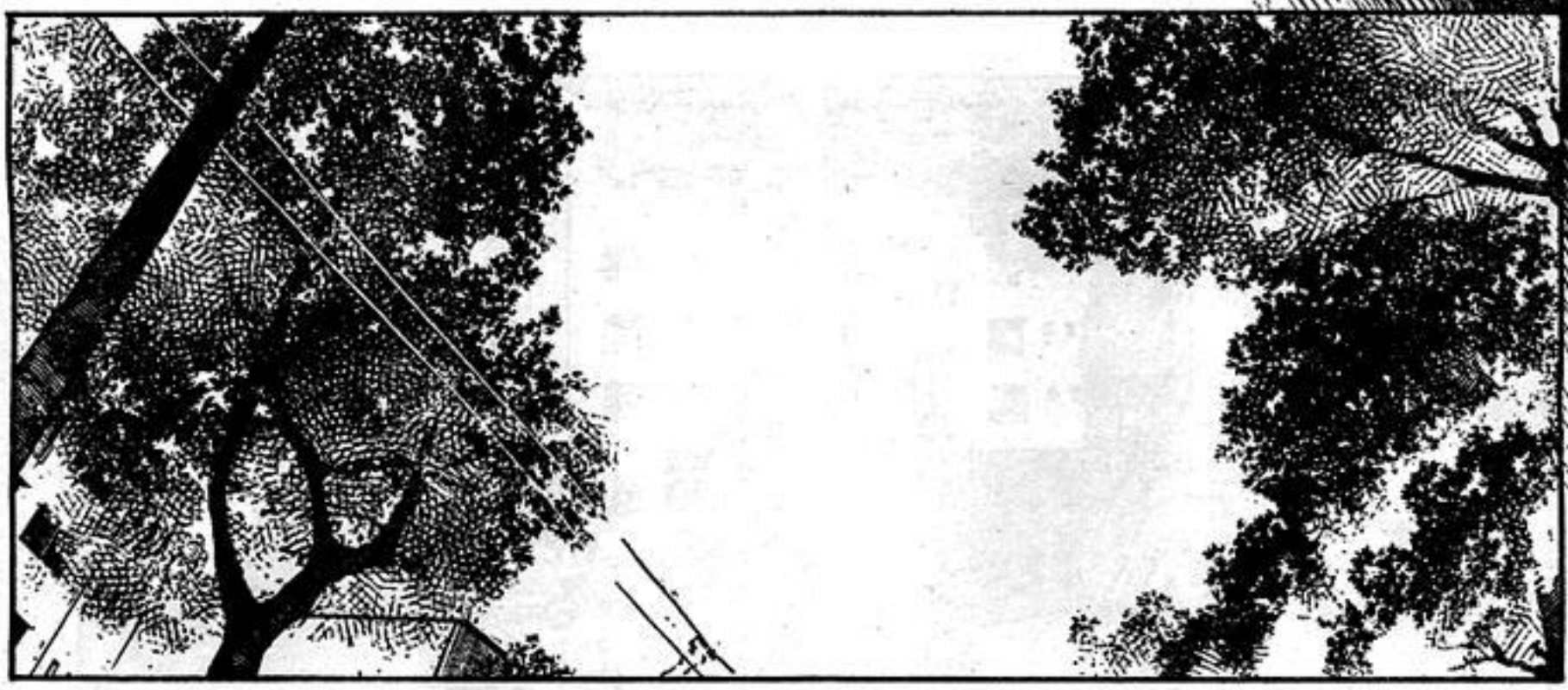
THE HUMAN DEATH IS A CONCEPT ENTWINED WITH THE **BAD**

IN A STORY WHERE PEOPLE DIE, NO ONE BUT **BAD** PEOPLE APPEAR

NOR SHOULD THEY

HUMAN DEATH CONTAINS ONLY THE **BAD**

NO MATTER HOW DEEPLY YOU PROBE, HUMAN DEATH---




UH...
UM...
HM?
WHAT IS IT?


BUT
THIS REALLY IS AN UNEXPECTED DEVELOP-MENT


I WAS ENTIRELY UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT A YOUNGER BROTHER WOULD BE HERE
.....

I'D PREFER IF YOU COULD LET ME GO SOMETIME SOON

.....

WELL

PLEASE EXCUSE ME

スタスタ

I APOL-OGIZE

28

BUT YOU REALLY ARE QUITE UNFORT-UNATE AREN'T YOU?

WHAT?

OH.. NO..

零崎双識の人間試験

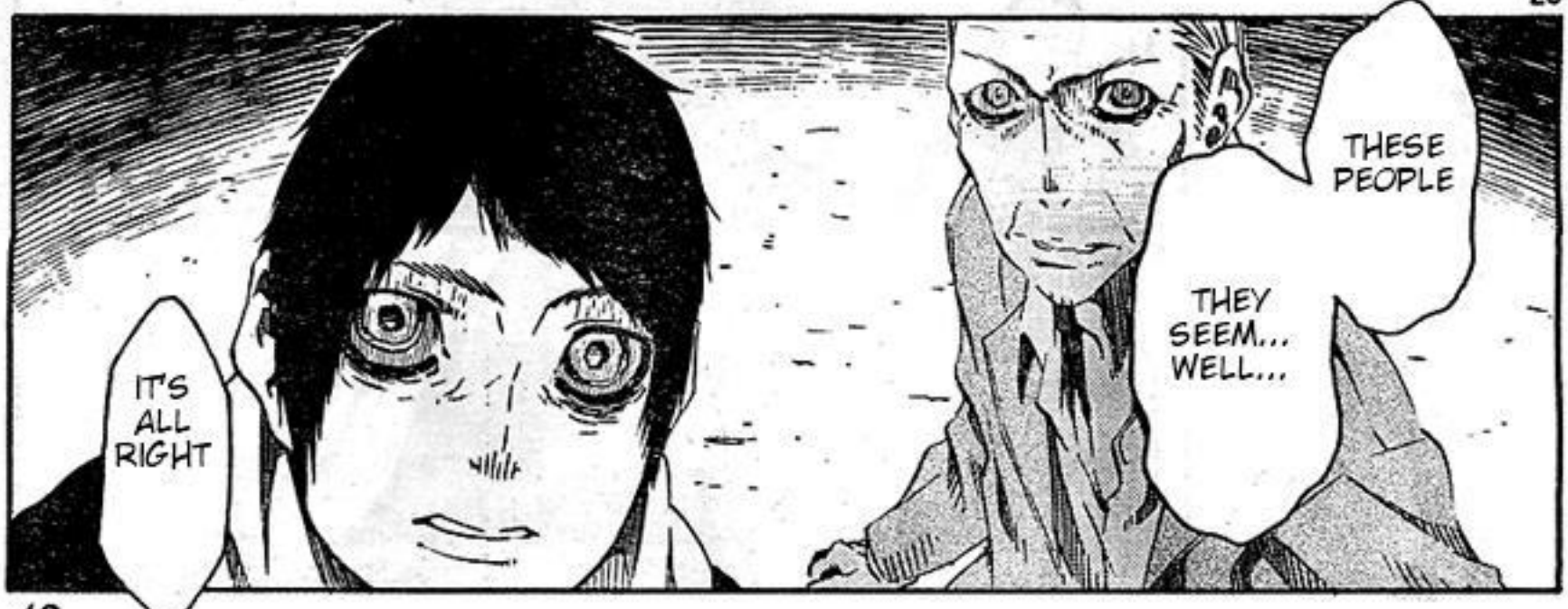








29



43

「少女」と「僕」の不十分な無関係。**西尾維新の最新刊ノベルス『少女不十分』絶賛発売中！**
講談社ノベルスより
定価：882円(税込)

いい男とはこういうことだ！

やっぱり燃える九州男児・江頭2：50さんです。職業がらたわけた部分を全面に出しておられますが、今回の東北が厳しいときに、侍魂をいち早く行動に移してやってくれたことに十年来ファンだったことを誇りに思います。

岩手県・加藤巌(19)さ・社会人

零崎双識の人間試験

奔放なる青春活劇、開幕!





31





45

西尾維新の〈物語〉シリーズ最新作!『鬼物語』

9月30日発売予定!

講談社BOXより
定価:1365円(税込)

NOW THEN

SORRY FOR MAKING YOU WAIT FOR SUCH A LONG TIME

WAS THERE SOMETHING YOU NEEDED FROM ME?

32

ARE YOU A MEMBER OF THE ZEROZAKI CLAN?

AH YES

I AM

ZERO-
ZAKI

AH WE FINIALLY FOUND ONE, A

ZEROZAKI

I WONDER WHAT WAS WITH THAT LITTLE GIRL BACK THERE?

WAS HE HITTING ON HER OR SOME-THING?

A ZERO-ZAKI DOING THAT THOUGH

IT'S A BIT HARD TO BELIEVE, HUH

.....

OOH

あいたー

MAYBE THAT'S JUST A FAKE

LOOKS LIKE THEY GOT ONE OVER US HUH

HELLO BIG BROTHER~?

YOU LISTENING~?

.....









友人Aはかっこいいが、お酒を飲むと赤ちゃん言葉になるので彼女がいない。

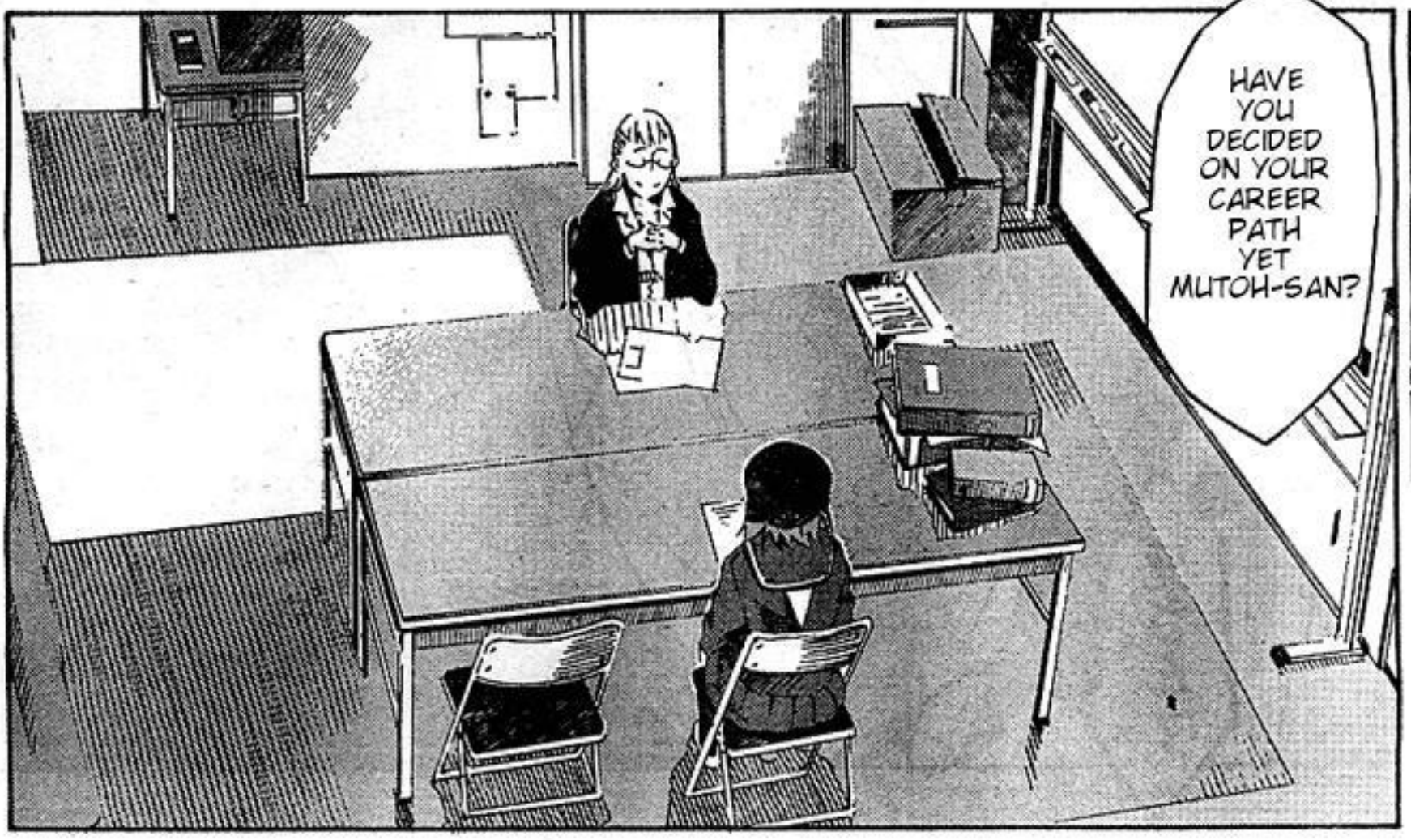
香川県・秋(仰)さ・社会人

零崎双識の人間試験








HAVE YOU DECIDED ON YOUR CAREER PATH YET MUTOH-SAN?
進路希望調査
年 組 番
氏名
保護者氏名
1. 高校卒業後の進路希望（あてはまるものに○を付けて下さい
A. 進学希望
B. 就職希望
C. その他（
2. 進学希望の場合の志望校
学部
学科
EVEN THOUGH IT'S A REPORT IT DOESN'T MEAN IT'S GOING TO BE SET IN STONE RIGHT NOW
YOU REALLY DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT IT SO MUCH


WITH YOUR GRADES MUTOH-SAN, YOU HAVE A CLEAN SHOT AT MOST UNIVERSITIES
YOU CAN ALSO FIND WHAT YOU WANT TO DO IN THE FUTURE ONCE YOU ARE THERE
WHAT..
I WANT TO DO IN THE FUTURE
UM, SENSEI?

神奈川県・にゃん㊂♀・主婦

零崎双識の人間試験

超豪華キャストで実写映画化!!
真鍋昌平の原点にして傑作、
新作読み切りを収録した決定版!



AFTER NOON アフタヌーン KC

最新刊

新装版 スマグラー 真鍋昌平

絶賛発売中!!

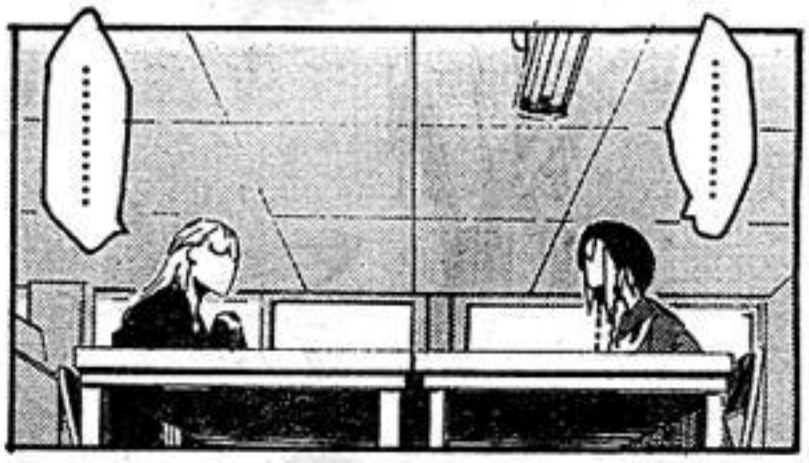
定価 680円 (税込)











39






ぱたん…
PHEW


……
OH


JION?
ぱたん

NORM-
ALITY

I WONDER IF YOU HAVE GIVEN THOUGHT TO THIS TOPIC

WHY YOU ASK? WHY-

IN EVERY GENERATION, ALL THE YOUNG PEOPLE ADMIRE ATHLETES AND MUSICIANS

THE IMPORTANT THING IS THEY DISLIKE SUITS AND NECKTIES

BECAUSE IT'S THE **NORMALITY** FILLING THERE EVERYDAY LIFES

IT IS THE FEAR OF LACKING INDIVIDUAL-ITY, BEING WITHOUT A SELF

IT MEANS BEING THE SAME AS OTHERS

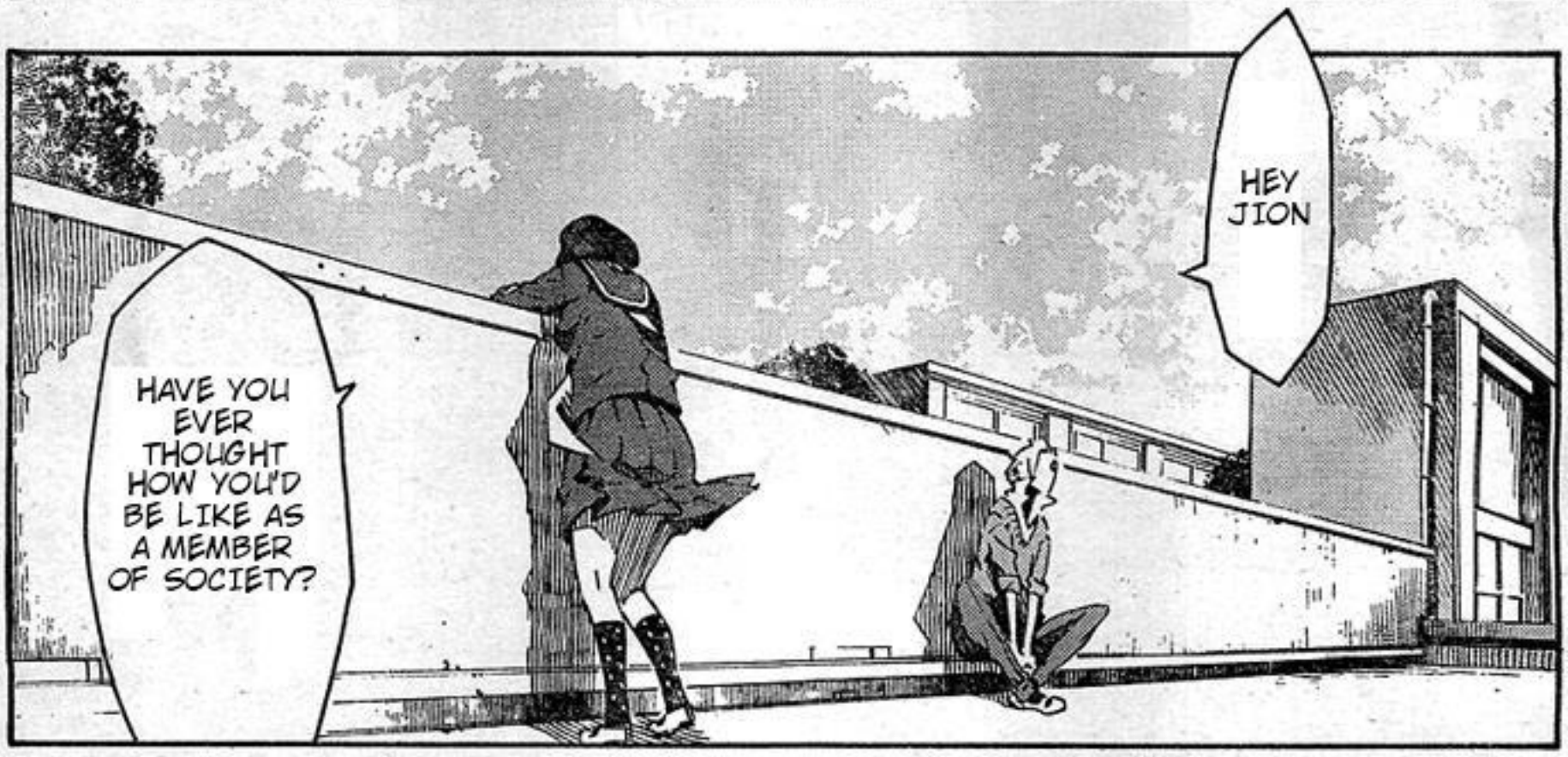
IT MEANS BEING THE AVERAGE

NOTHING COULD BE MORE WONDERFUL

EVEN THO-UGH

IT MEANS BEING **NORMAL**

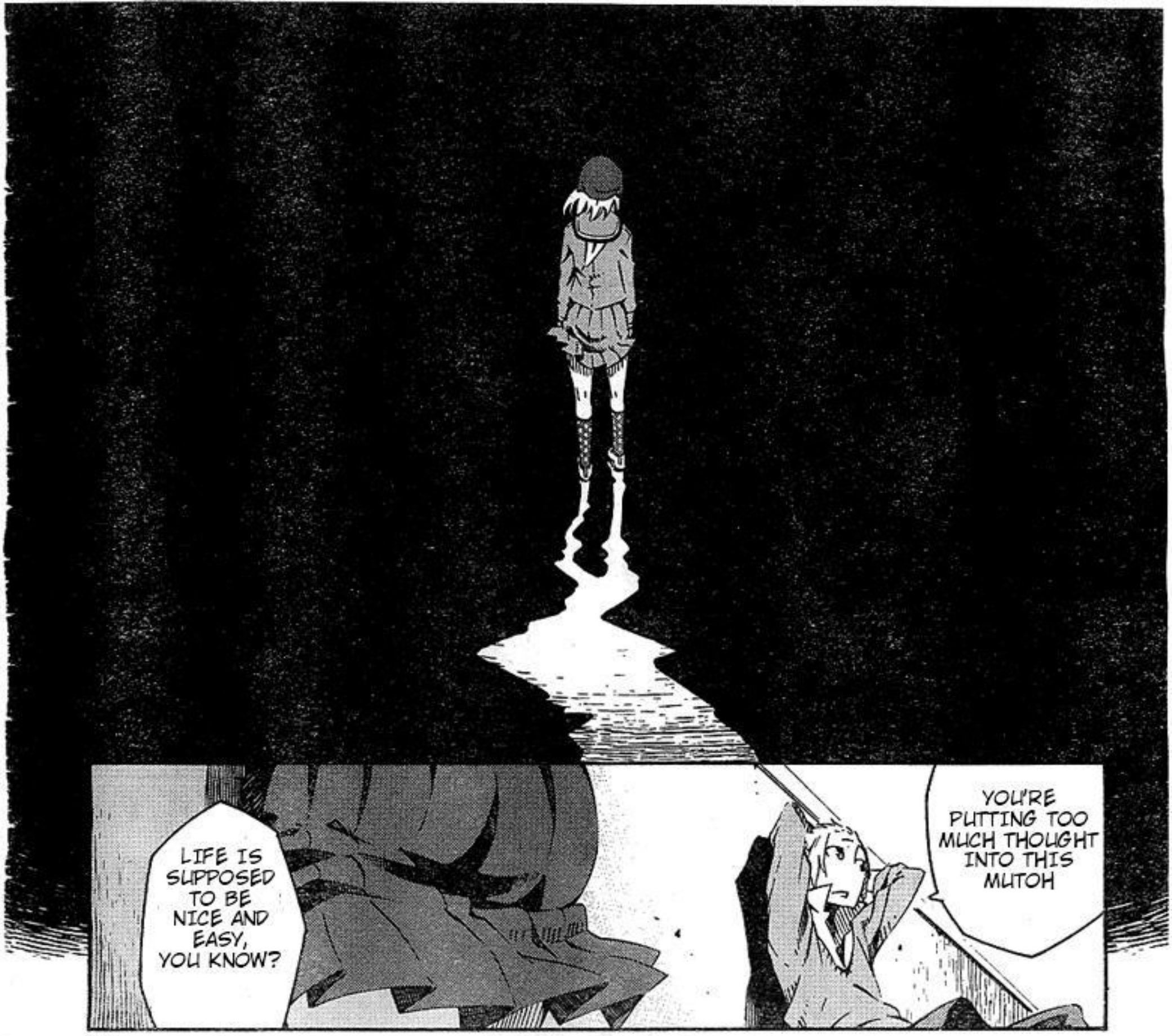



HEY JION
HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT HOW YOU'D BE LIKE AS A MEMBER OF SOCIETY?


ME, I JUST CAN'T HELP BUT FEELING STRANGE RIGHT NOW
JUST BEING A HIGH SCHOOLER


AND THAT'S WHY I'VE BEEN RUNNING
AND WITHOUT REACHING A SINGLE PLACE I...


I FEEL LIKE I REALLY SHOULDN'T BE HERE
LIKE THERE ISN'T A SINGLE PLACE I BELONG TOO


LIFE IS SUPPOSED TO BE NICE AND EASY, YOU KNOW?
YOU'RE PUTTING TOO MUCH THOUGHT INTO THIS MUTOH


...SOME-THING LIKE THAT
I'M GOING TO GROW UP AND BE A MUSICIAN!
I'LL BE THE NEXT JIM MORRISON!!

YOU'RE EXACTLY THE TYPE WHO'LL TURN OUT TO BE A SALARYMAN WHEN YOU MEET THEM AT A REUNION

HUH

NO WAY IM GOING FOR A WHITE COLLAR DESK JOB

BUT STILL

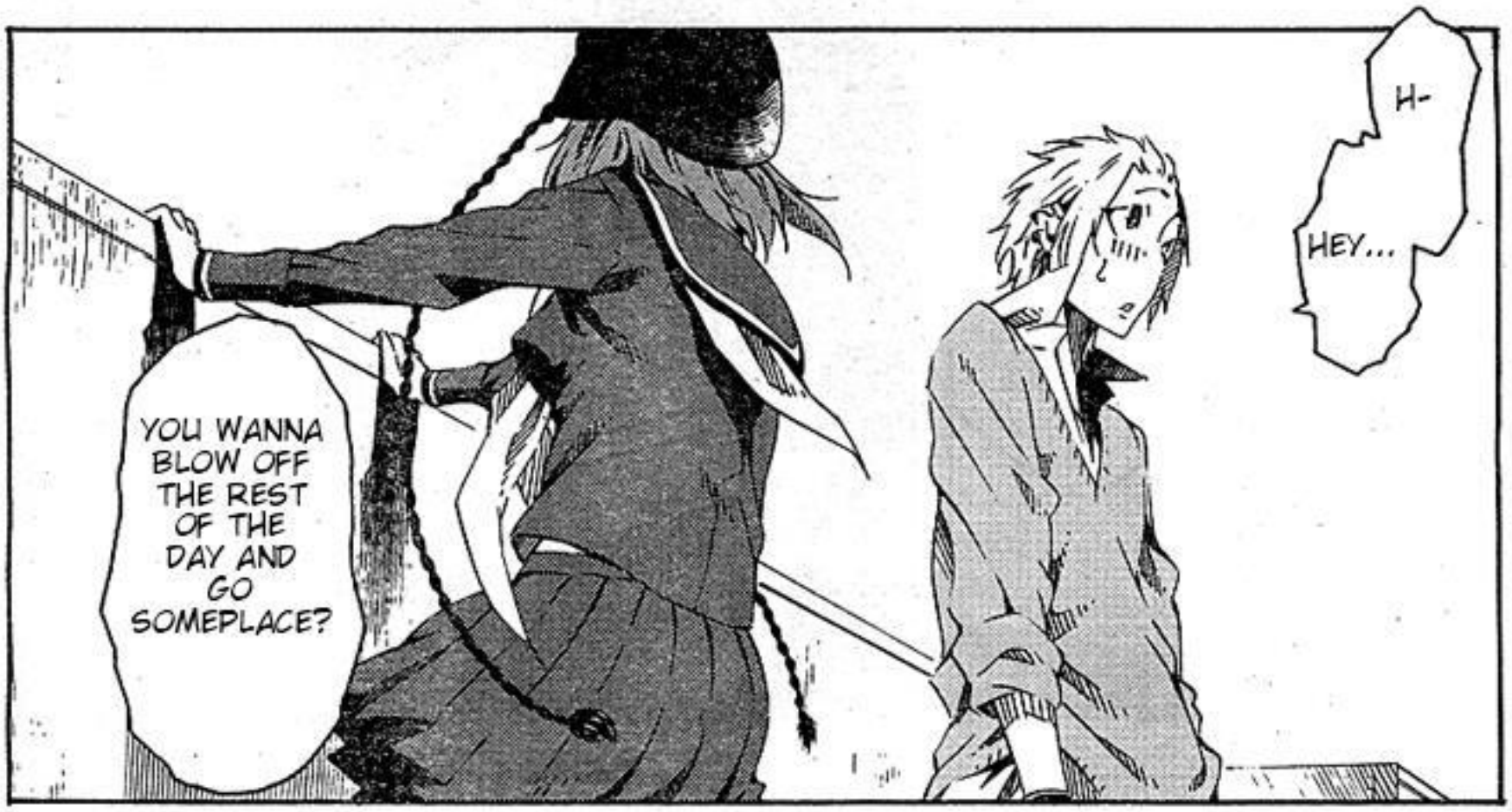
I FEEL A BIT BETTER NOW

THANK YOU JION

お題フリー欄外四季賞

知人が飲み会で既婚の美人に冗談で離婚するの待ってますと言ったら、突然、涙をボロボロこぼして座が凍った。マジに離婚協議中、しかもそのあと離婚しちゃったもんだから、しばらく周りからヒドい奴と言われたそうな。

岡山県・うどん(43)さ・社会人

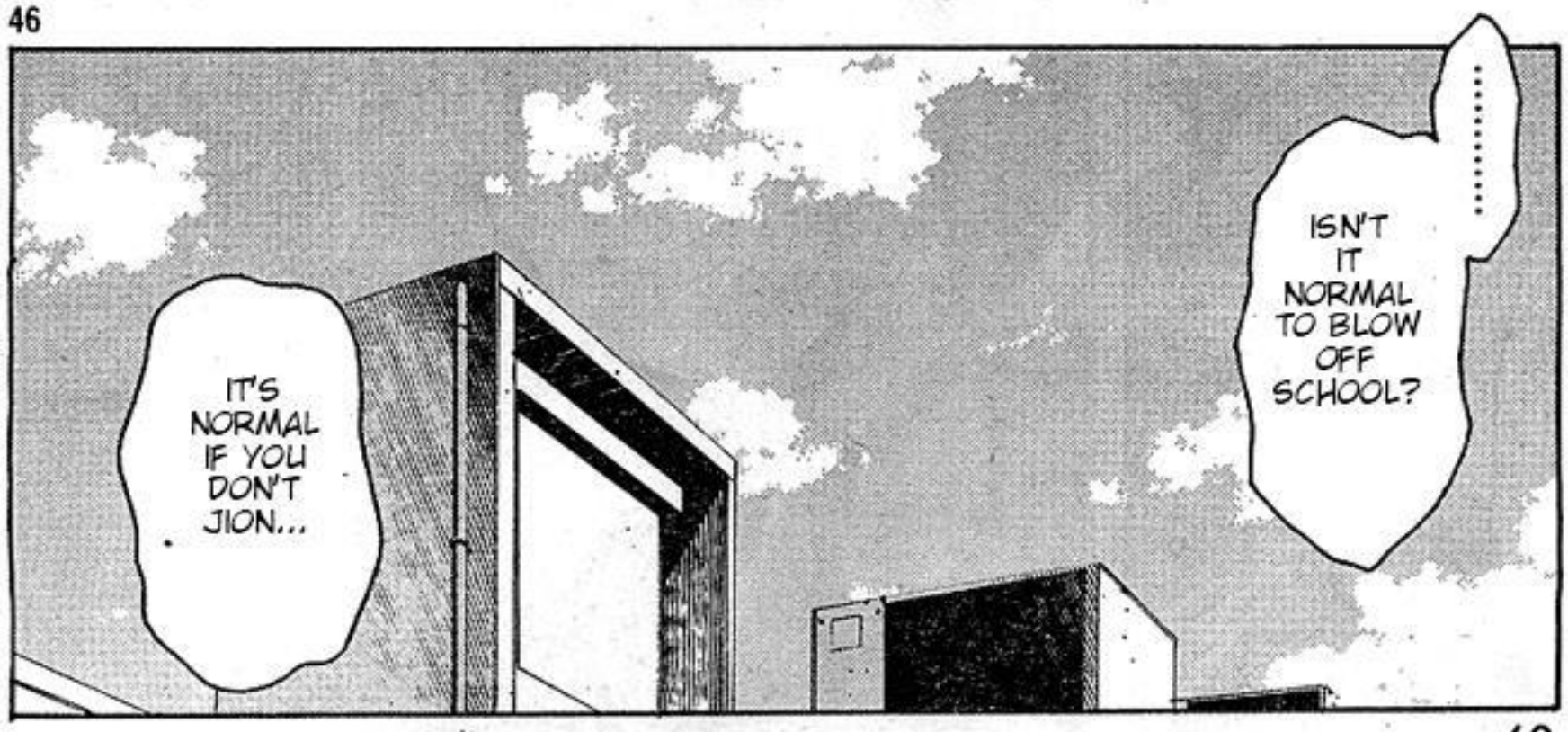








46



60

ONE OUGHT TO NEVER BE A MAVERICK TO THE NORM

IN THE END HAPP-INESS AS A HUMAN BEING

MEANS GETTING ALONG WELL WITH THE PEOPLE AROUND YOU

THUS BEING **NORMAL AND NATURAL** IS TRULY A BLESSED THING

IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH PRESTIGE, HONOR, STATUS OR WEALTH

THAT'S BECA-USE

THINGS LIKE TALENTS AND QUALITIES OUGHT TO BE HIDDEN AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE

ecus...tion

EVERYONE WANTS TO LIVE AS HUMAN BEINGS

48

零崎双識の人間試験

渋川春海の暦に捧げた幸福な生涯。本屋大賞受賞小説、完全漫画化!!

AFTER NOON アフタヌーンKC

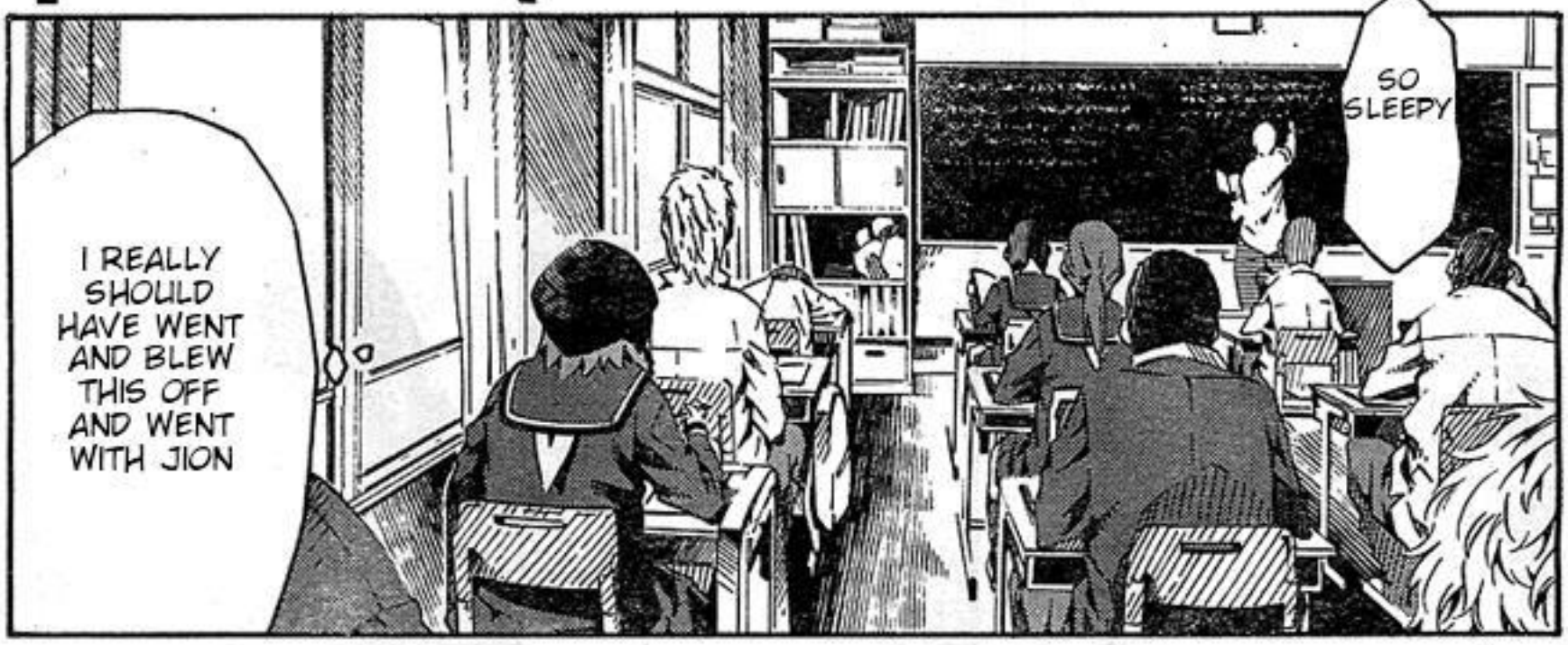
最新刊

天地明察 ❶

漫画・槇えびし 原作・冲方丁

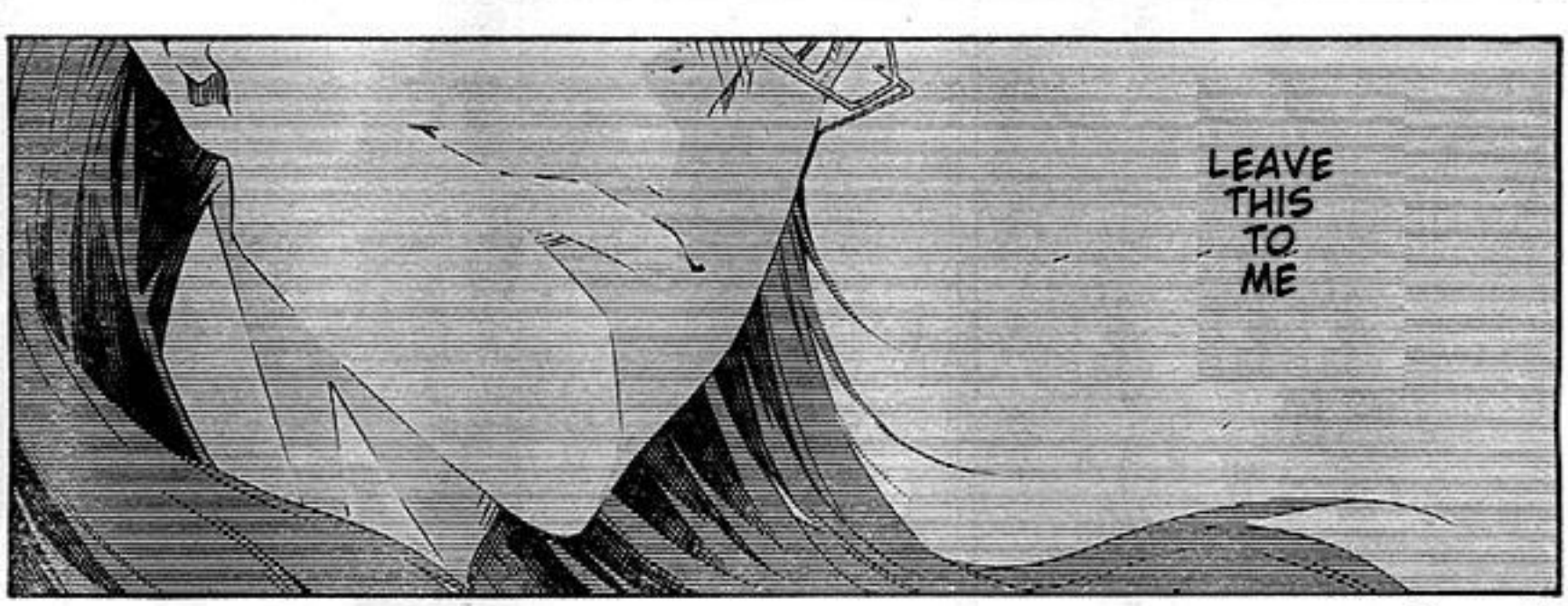
絶賛発売中!!

定価600円(税込)



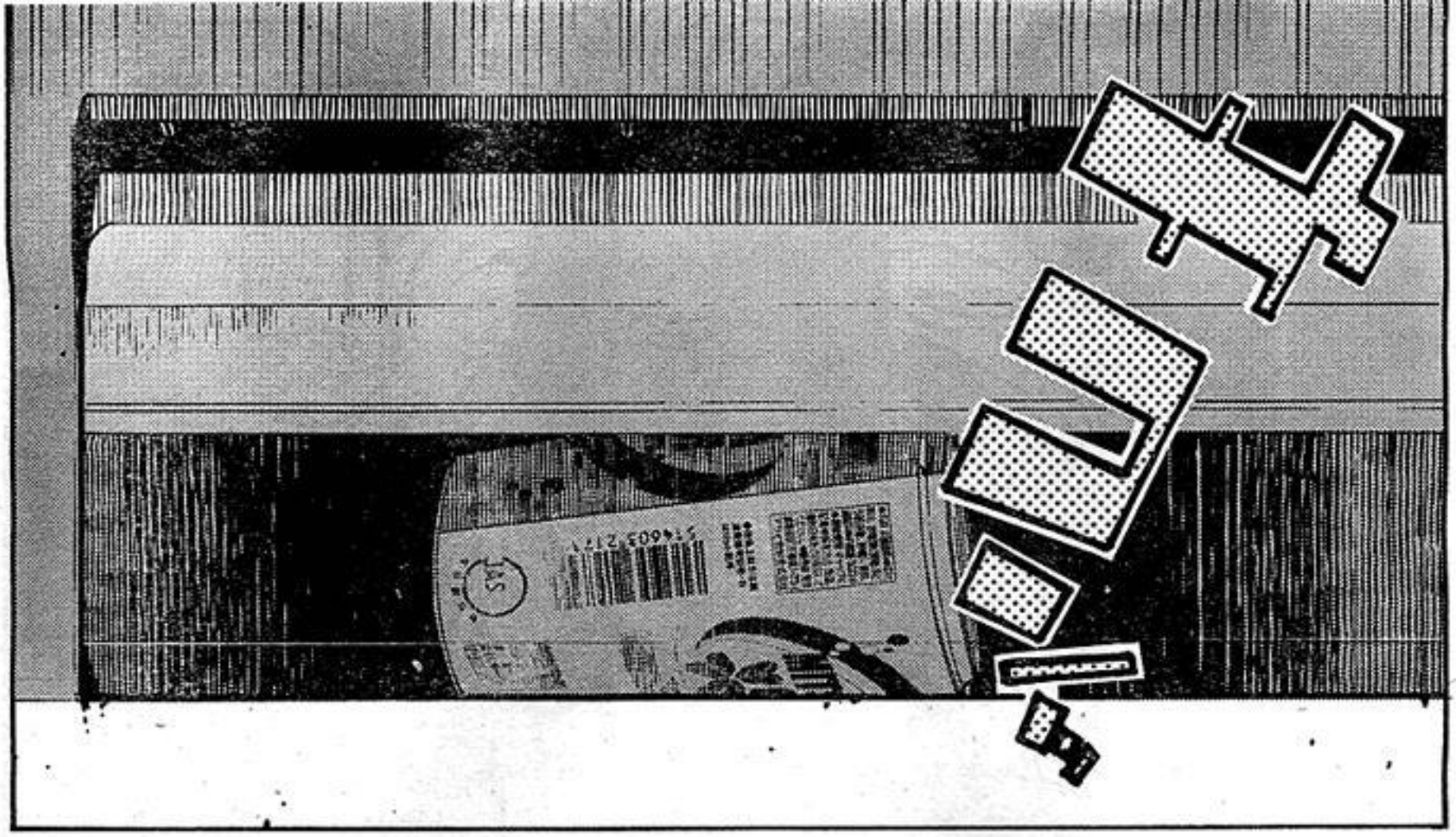


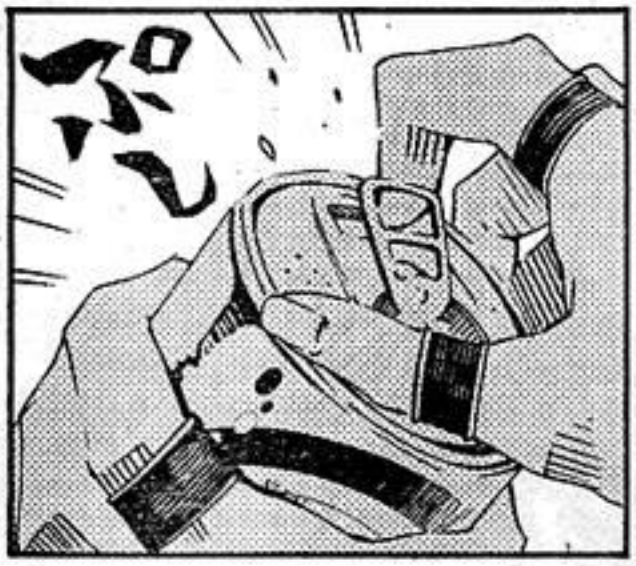






I'VE KNOWN HIM FOR THE LONGEST TIME






NO DATE FOR ME HUH
SIGH


HUH


GUESS I'LL HEAD TO THE ARCADE

52

66

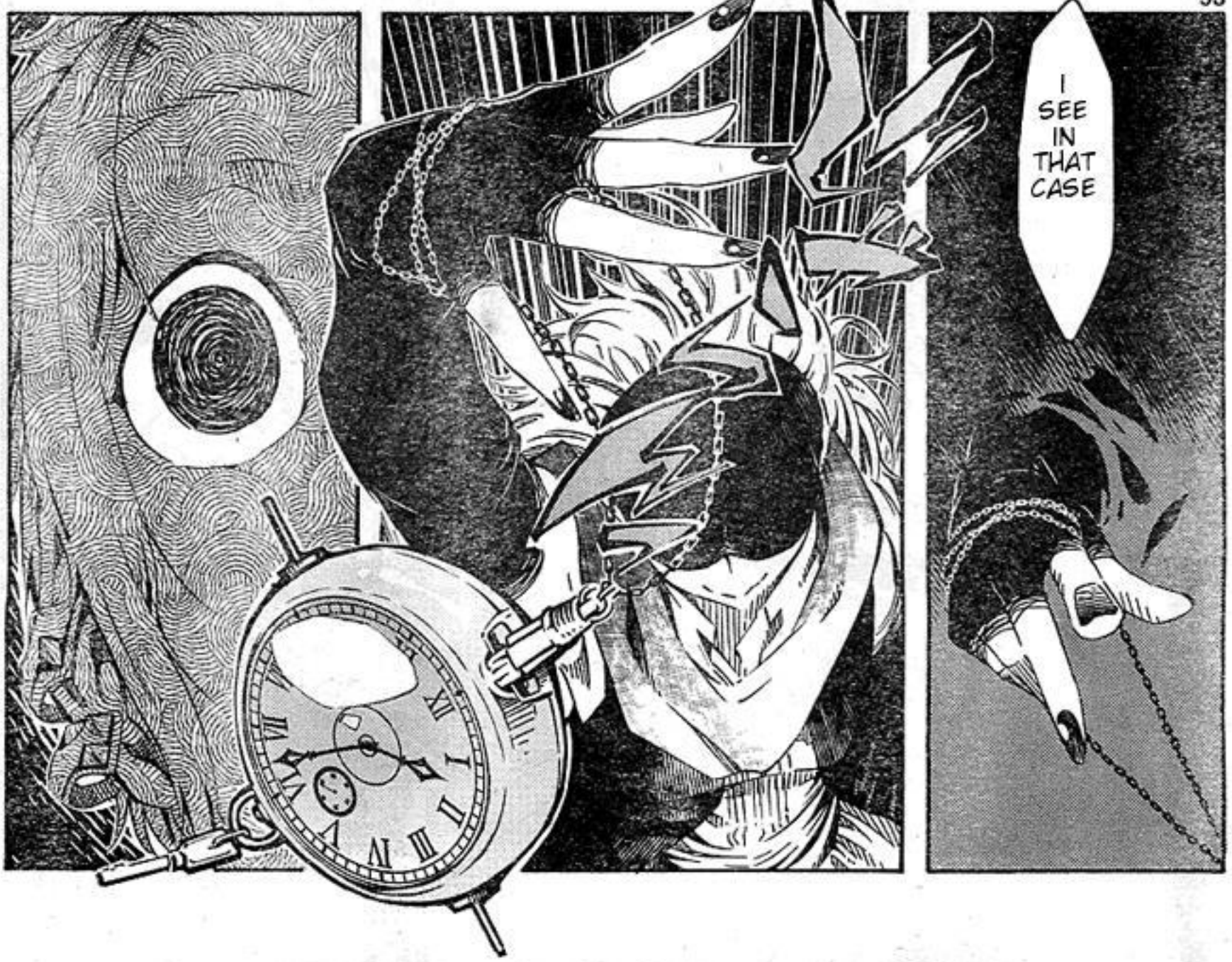
?

……

零崎双識の人間試験







「黒鉄」「文車館来訪記」「ハツカネズミの時間」「ACONY」の4作におよぶ西尾維新の執筆すべてを収録!!

AFTER NOON KCピース

最新刊

冬目景画集 景・色 冬目景

絶賛発売中!!

定価 2940円 (税込)

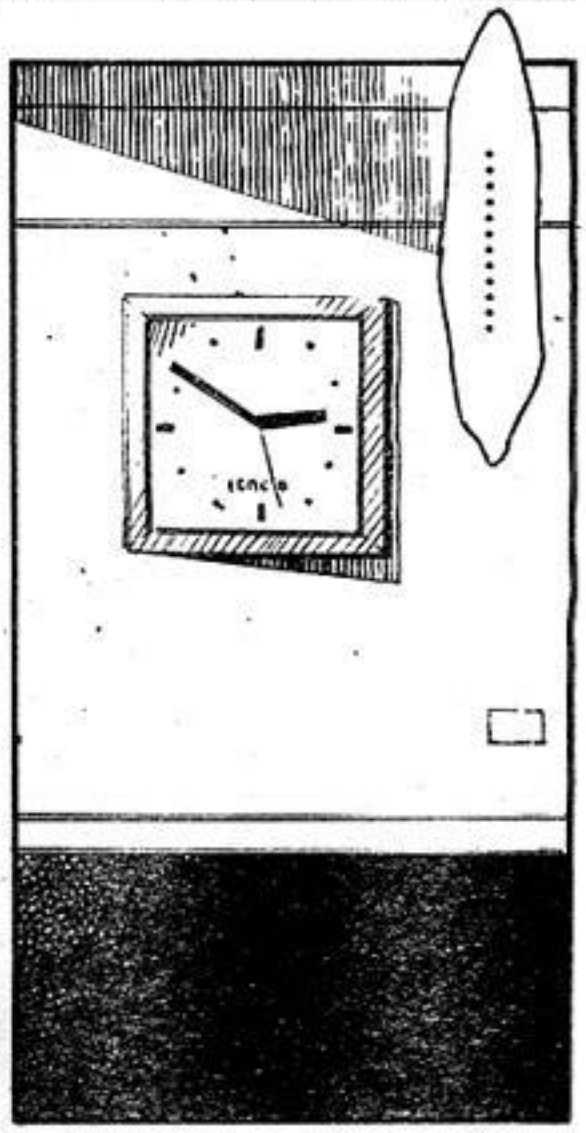

YOU WILL DO FINE






UU.. I FELL ASLEEP
HAA!


WHAH?



美女と猫が空を駆け、謎の島を巡る壮大な海洋アドベンチュア！

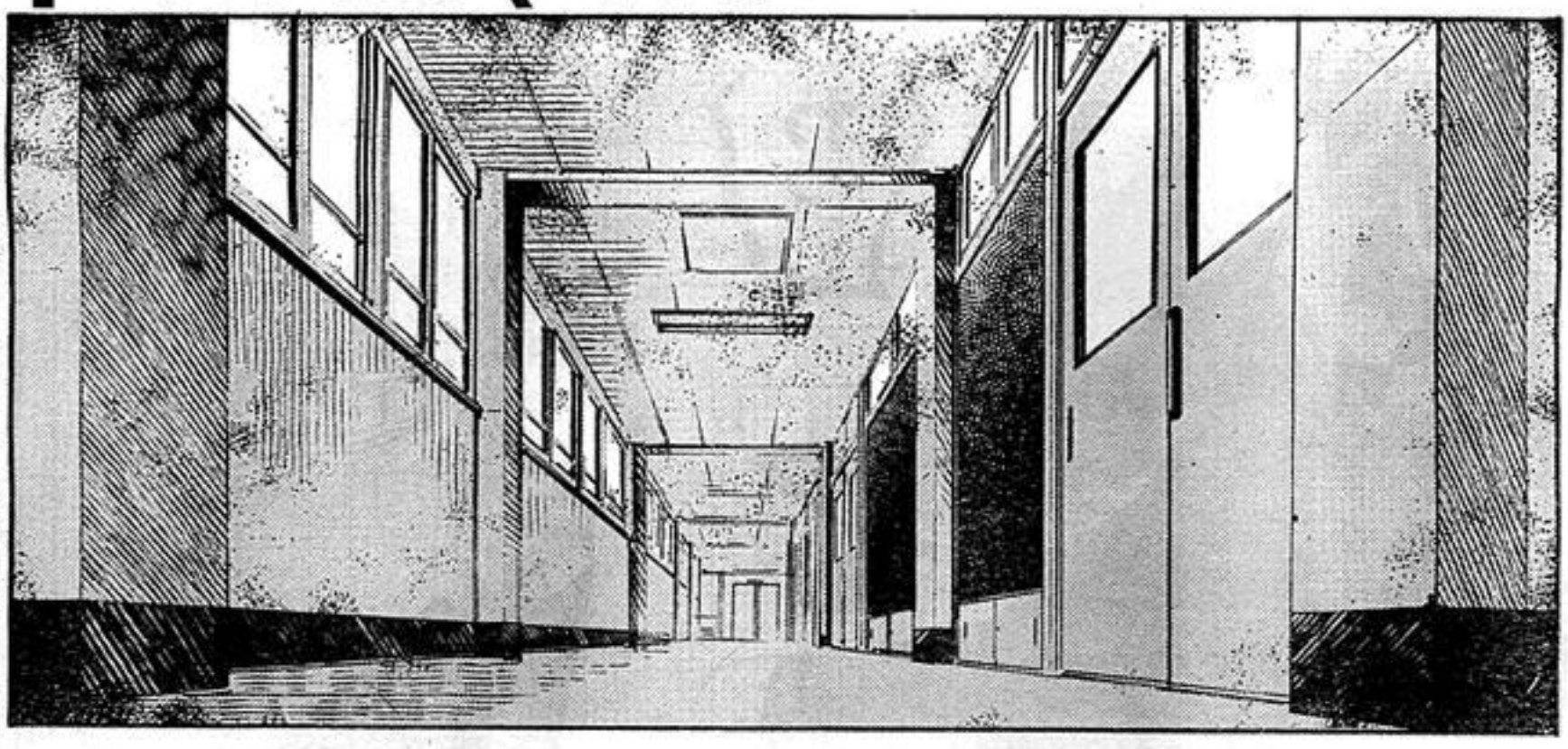


AFTER NOON アフタヌーン KCDX

10月21日(金)発売！

冒険エレキテ島❶ 鶴田謙二

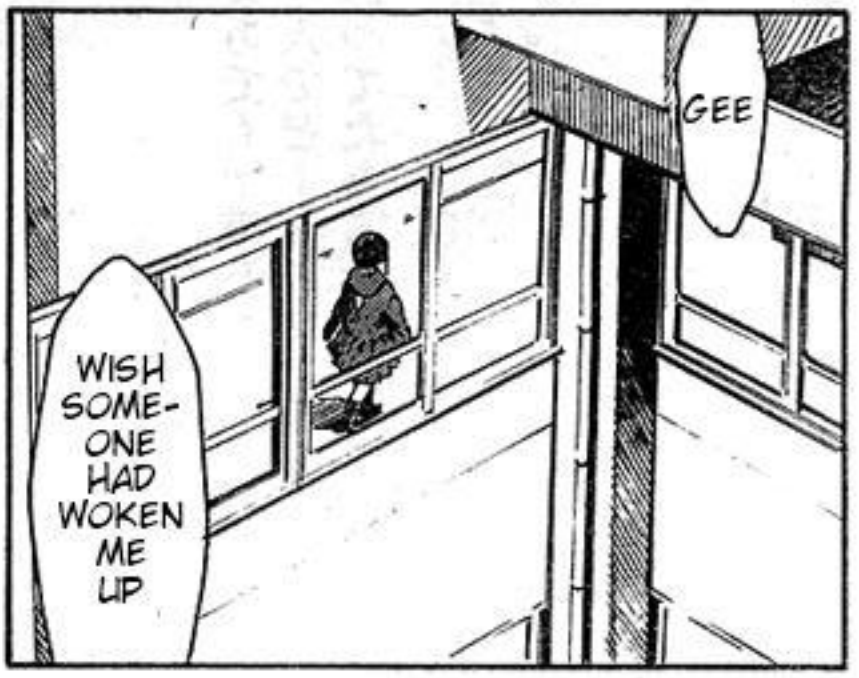
定価未定











お題フリー 欄外 四季賞

自分ごとで恐縮ですが、最近、泥棒に間違えられたことがありまして、ずーっとモヤモヤしていました。しかし、アフタヌーンを読んで気分転換ができました。

愛媛県・ムラ㉘さ・社会人















表題作ほか2編を収録!!
市川氏自身の装丁による
待望の最新単行本!!



AFTER NOON アフターヌーン KC
最新刊
25時のバカンス 市川春子作品集 II
市川春子
絶賛発売中!!
定価 620円 (税込)

WH

WHOA!

60

GOD

WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU ALL OF A SUDDEN

おおおおお…

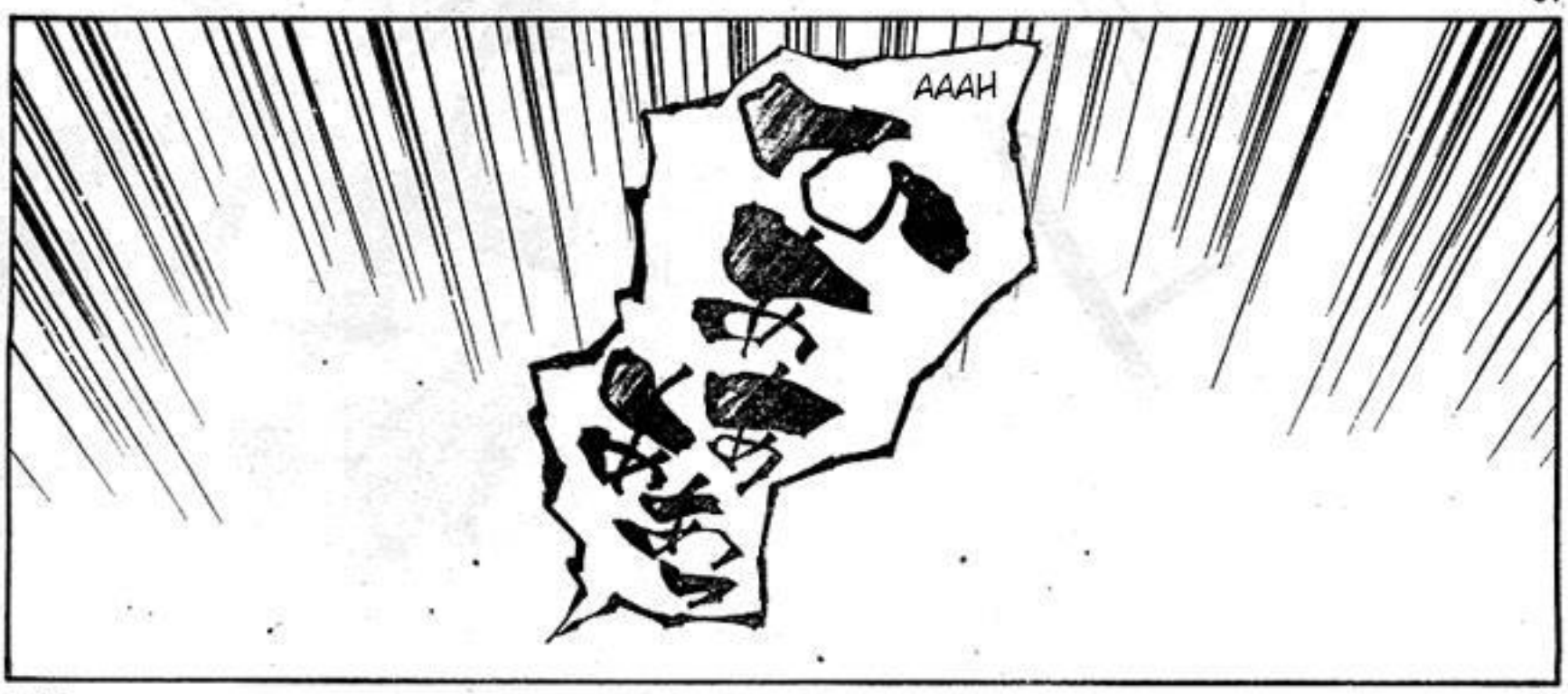
WHA

ARGH

零崎双識の人間試験（ゼロザキソウシキ） 西尾維新×シオミヤイルカ



61



75

とある書店で繰り広げられる幼くも楽しい青春の一幕!!

AFTER NOON アフタヌーンKC

10月21日(金)発売

じゃりテン❶

赤井吟行

定価 520円 (税込)

WHA

WHA

WA

IS

IS ANYONE HERE!?

WHAT IS GOING ON

WHAT IS THIS

62

76

HAA

HAA..

DEAD EYES

THE SAME AS THE PEOPLE EARLIER

HIS EYES THEY'RE

HAA

HAA

WHY...

IS HE GOING TO KILL ME?!

NO, IT CAN'T BE

IS THIS IT!

BUT I'VE ONLY LIVED FOR 17 YEARS!

HA-

I WANT TO LIVE LONGER

I...

IT'S JUST TOO EARLY

LIVE LON-GER..

AND DO WHAT?

LIVE LON-GER THAT'S IT?

THIS IS

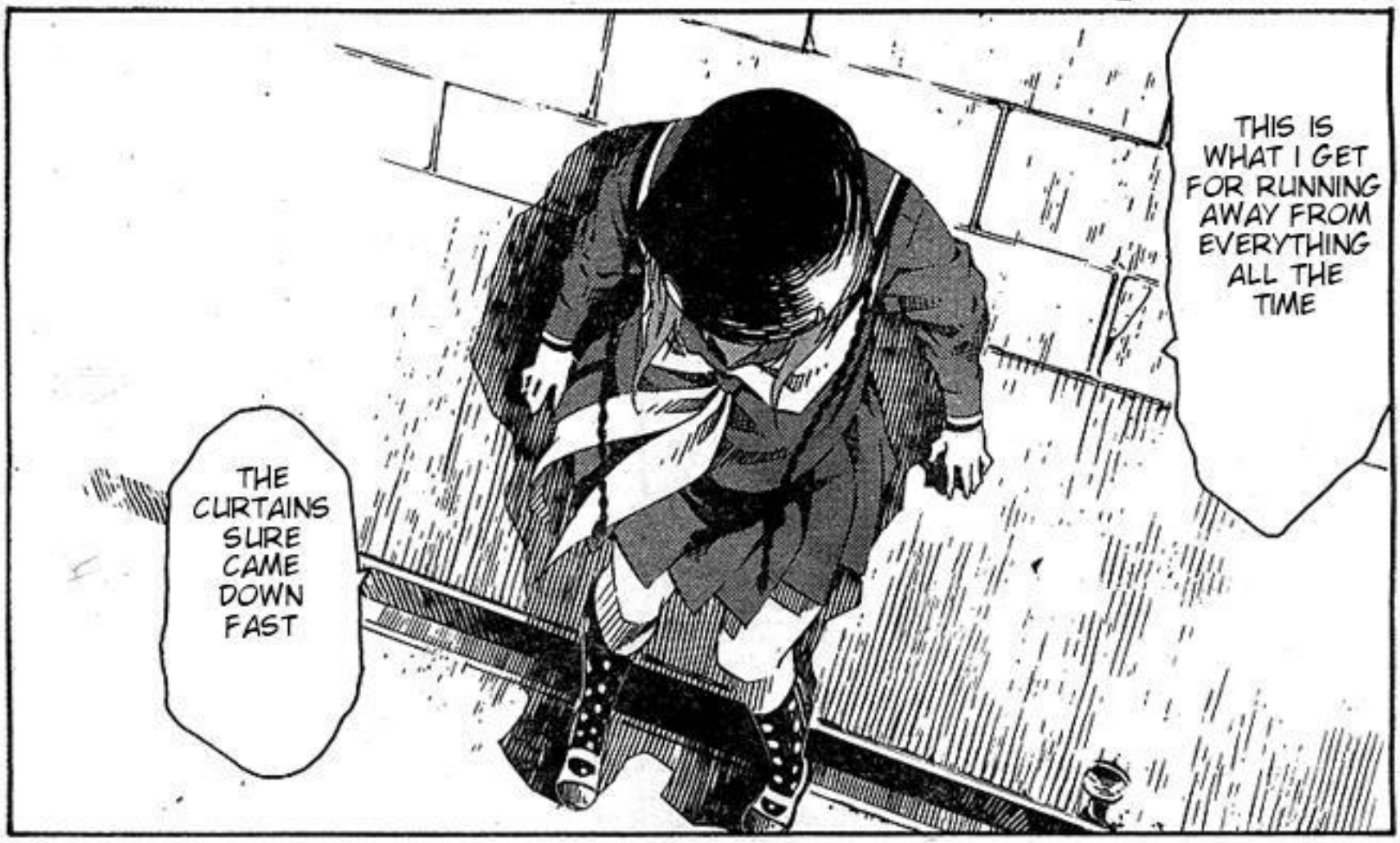
WHAT I OWE...

.....

OH... I GET IT

僕はたまに言い間違いをし、友人に指摘される。そんな僕の母にこないだ「コーヒーの微妙をかってきて」と言われた。やはり親子か……。

大阪府・ヤクト(38)さ・社会人





66

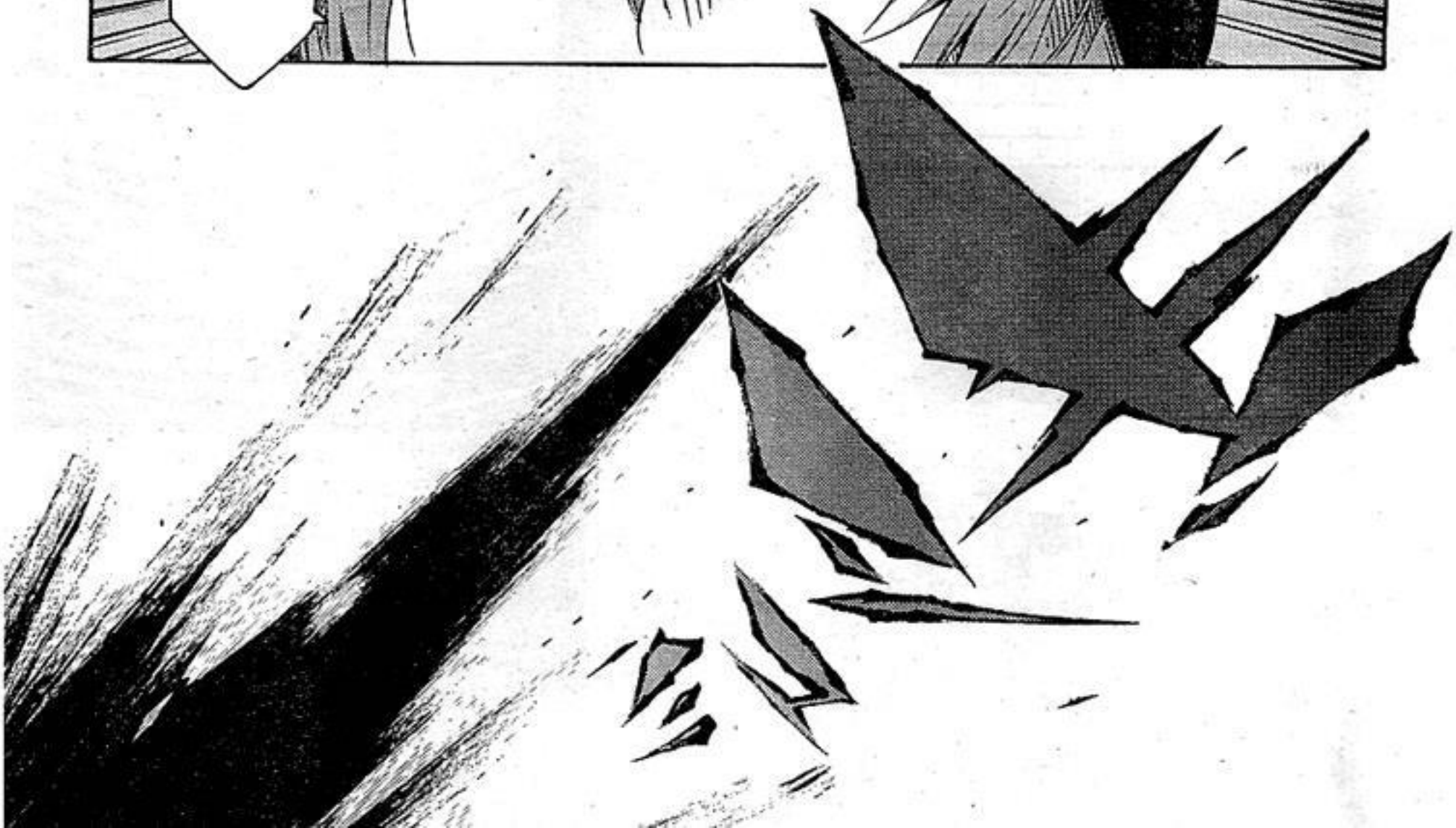




80




MY
STOP
THIS
IS



TO THE LIVING

THAT IS THE **EVILEST** THOUGHT OF ALL

THE WORLD IS ALREADY FULL OF THINGS WHICH CAN REPRESENT **EVIL**

JUST LIKE HOW YOU CAN RUN THROUGH TRAFFIC LIGHTS EVENTUALLY

YOU WILL ENCOUNTER **EVIL.** DON'T YOU AGREE?

THE SUICIDE DRIVE

EVERYONE DIES IN THE END

BUT THAT'S NO REASON TO GO RUSHING TOWARDS IT

REGARD-LESS OF THE DESTINY YOU SHOULDER

THE CRIMES YOU HAVE COMMITED

THE LIVING DESERVE TO LIVE

THAT IS MY BELIEF


...WAIT

WHY IS JION DEAD?



HA HA

HA

74

MAYBE I

HAVE SOME SORT OF TALENT FOR KILLING PEOPLE

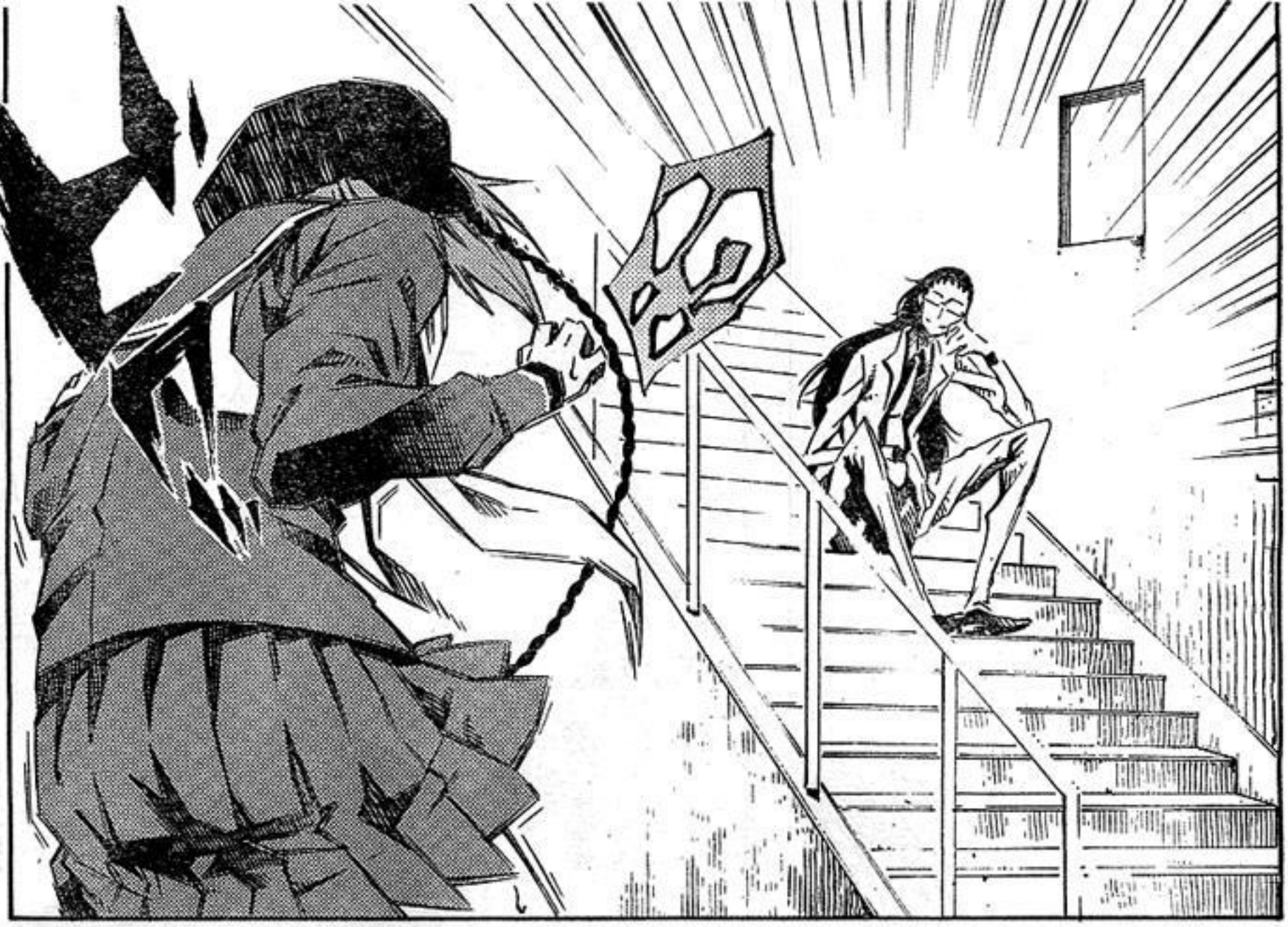
I NEED TO STOP SAYING STUPID THINGS AND GO BEFORE

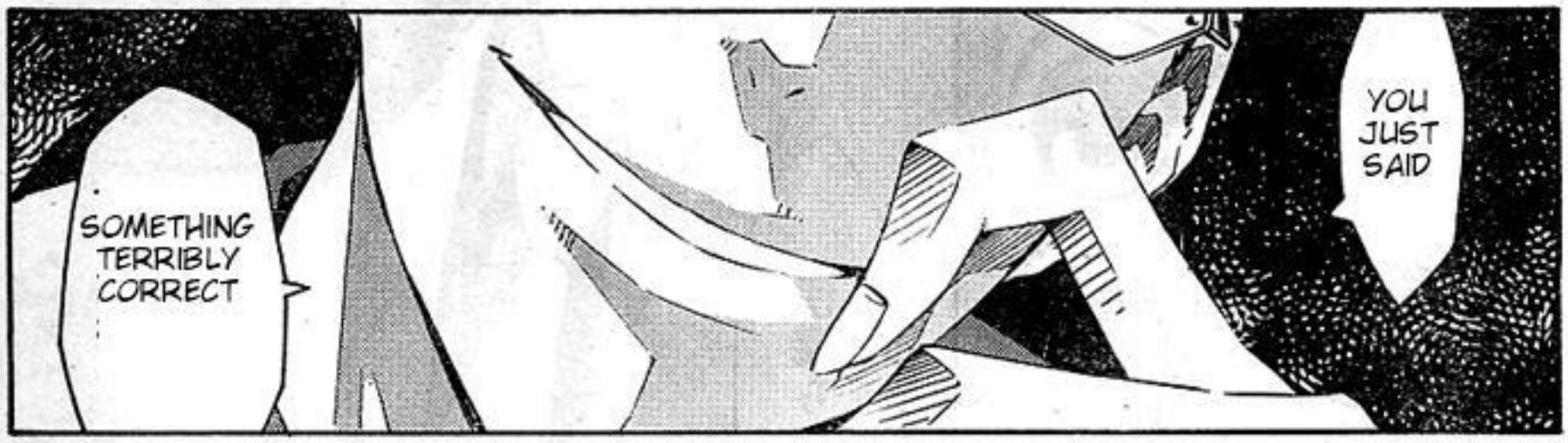
KOF

.....

HA

88




YOU JUST SAID
SOMETHING TERRIBLY CORRECT


DID HE SEE ME DO IT?!
BUT ALLOW ME TO MAKE A CORREC-TION
HUH.. HE...
YOU SHOULD PRESENT IT NOT A A TALENT
BUT A QUALITY

FROM THIS MORNING..

IS HE A....

ドキ

WE MEET AGAIN

IORI-CHAN

零崎双識の人間試験

アフタヌーンKC
爆音列島 1〜16
高橋ツトム
一九八一年、東京。僕は将来何になるんだろう——加勢高志の不確かな青春は単車の咆哮で覚醒する！
絶賛発売中!!
定価560円〜580円(税込)

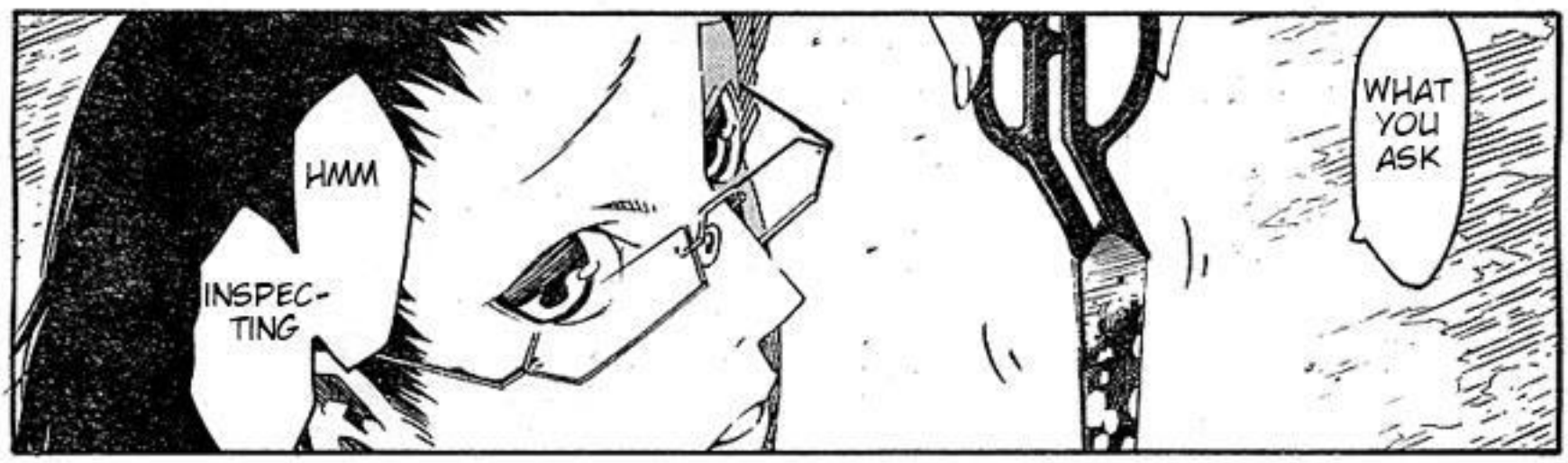




77







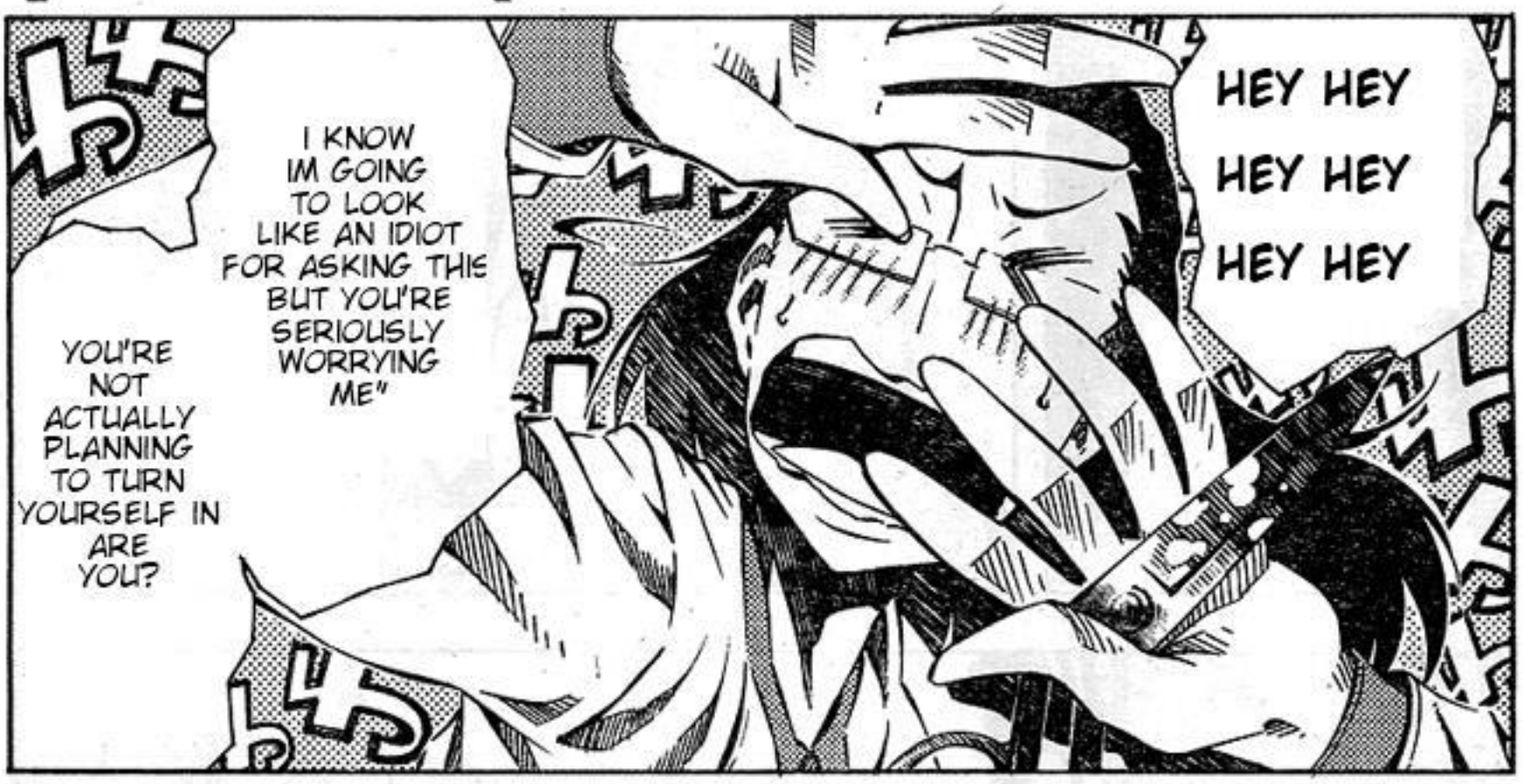




お題フリー欄外四季賞

電車の中で酔っ払いにからまれたときに、知らないおばさんが知人のフリをして助けてくれた。怖かったので本当に助かったし、優しくしてもらえてすごくうれしくて、ずっと忘れられません。　愛知県・本間ムックイル㈱♀・主婦

good! AFTERNOON KC 地雷震 ディアブロ 1 2
高橋ツトム
絶対的カリスマ刑事・飯田響也、再臨！
飯田が現場を退いた「ある理由」とは――？
絶賛発売中!!
定価
各610円
(税込)





79











お題フリー欄外四季賞

私の友人は、下の階の住人から「オナラの音が大きい」と苦情が出て、住んでいるアパートを退去させられた。

青森県・大里　大(39)♂・社会人

零崎双識の人間試験

アフタヌーンKC

新装版 地雷震(全10巻)



高橋ツトム

ハードボイルド・クライムストーリーの金字塔！
「殺意」と対峙する刑事・飯田響也の軌跡!!

絶賛発売中!!

定価
各1,000円
(税込)







AND YET YOU FEEL NO GUILT WHATSO-EVER

OH...

WERE YOU WATCHING WHEN JION...?

HOLD ON

!?

AFTER ALL THE FAULT IS WITH HIM

STILL THERE'S REALLY NO NEED TO FRET ABOUT THIS

good! AFTERNOON KCDX
ウチはおおきいざ
5
格差社会を図太く生き抜くワケありお屋敷美少女4コマ!
絶賛発売中!!
定価700円(税込)









HAVE ALREADY BEEN DERAILED

YES

OF COURSE

84

EVEN NOW...

ぴくっ

NO

I WILL SAY IT ONE MORE TIME

SINCE I KILLED JION IM THE BAD ONE HERE

98

お題フリー欄外四季賞

私は武士らしくあるために、毎日、新選組の厳しい規律『局中法度』を声に出して唱えている。

青森県・大里　大(39)♀・社会人



85



99

BEHOLD!

THAT WHICH DESPITE HAVING SUFFERED A FATAL INJURY IN THE NECK

NOW STANDS UP AGAIN TO KILL ITS TARGET!

THE NOTION OF IT!

EEK!

WHAT CAN WE CALL THIS IF NOT **EVIL**

IT'S THE SAME AS THE ONES FROM THE TRAIN THIS MORNING

THEY HAVE MY SYMPATHY

BUT NOT MY MERCY

WELL

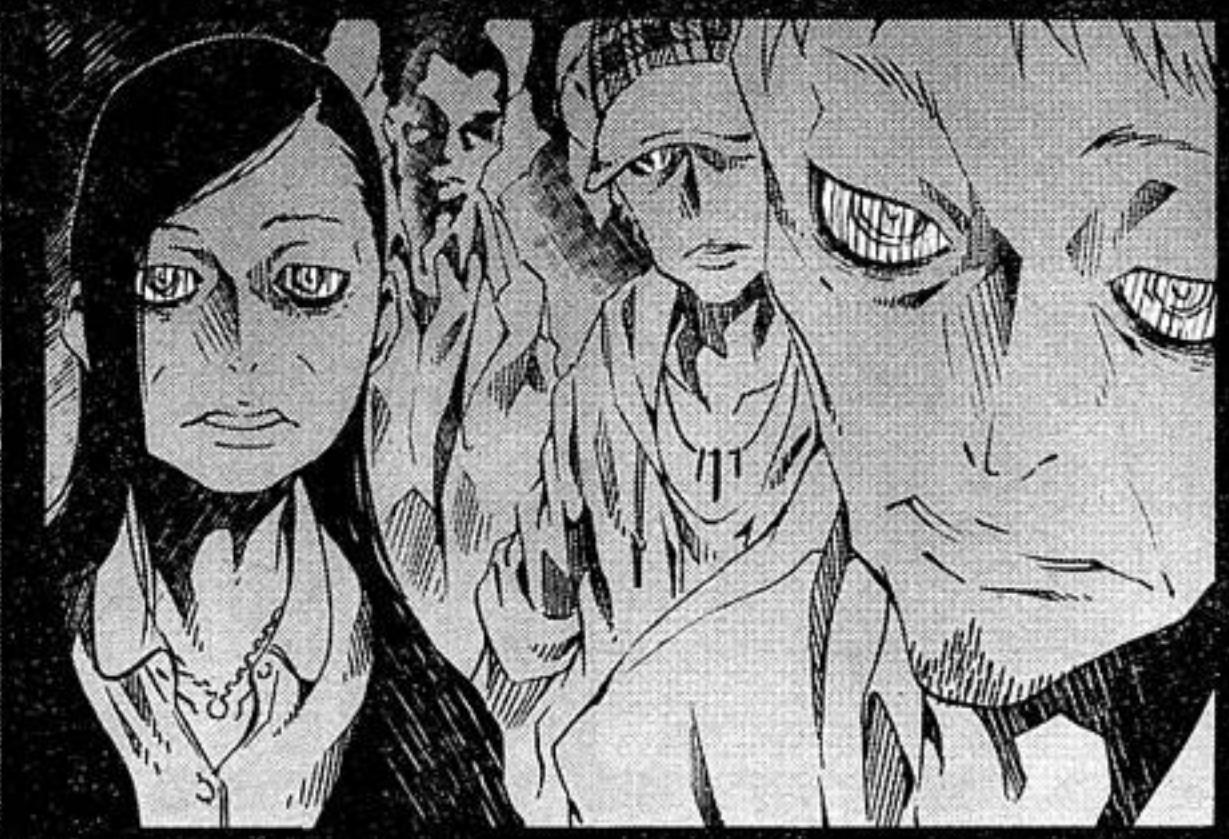
THAT'S ALL FOR THE LECTURE ON WHAT IS BAD

I'M SURE YOU'RE ALL GETTING TIRED OF WAITING

SO LET'S BEGIN THE TEST







WELL THEN

LET'S ...

MY BAD

LET ME START OVER

THAT'S THE WRONG PAIR

90

LET US BEGIN..

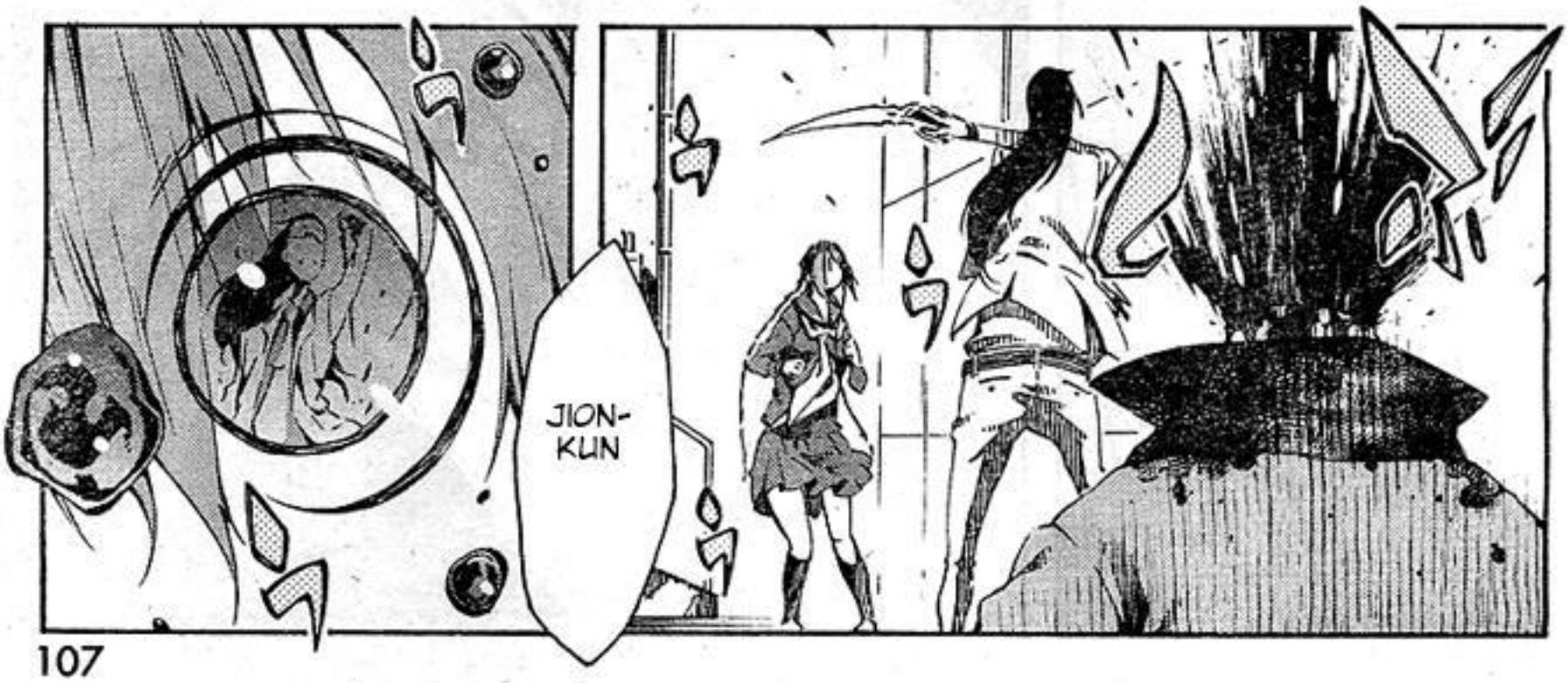

THE ZERO-ZAKI

JION-KUN WAS IT?


BUT HOW VERY UNFORT-UNATE YOU ARE

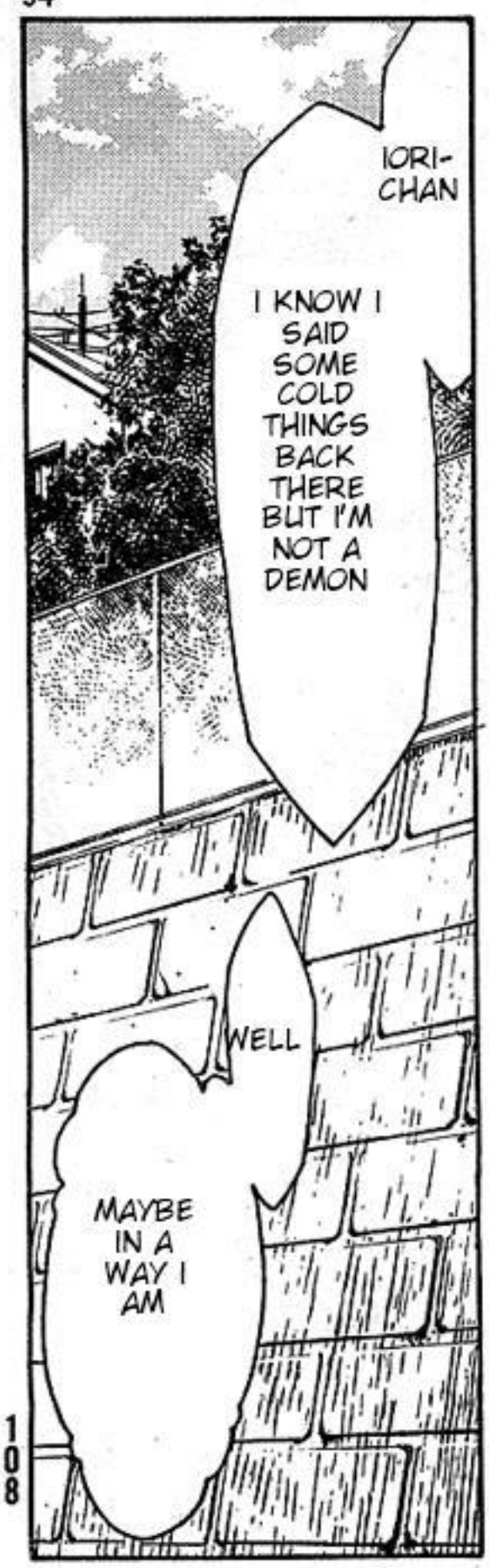

IF WE MET UNDER DIFFERENT CICUMSTANCES THE POSSIBILTIES FOR YOU MIGHT BE DIFFERENT




JION-KUN



94


IORI-CHAN
I KNOW I SAID SOME COLD THINGS BACK THERE BUT I'M NOT A DEMON
WELL
MAYBE IN A WAY I AM

108


YOU FAIL

AS YOU ARE A NEWBORN

ALLOW ME TO PRESENT YOU A PROPOSAL

I AM ZEROZAKI SOUSHIKI

AH I SEE

HE'S NOT A STALKER

HEY IORI-CHAN

WILL YOU BE MY LITTLE SISTER?

96

A PERVERT

THOSE GIANT SCISSORS OF HIS BECAME HIS OWN SECOND NAME

WOW

SUICIDE DRIVE

THE MAINLAENDER HUH?

AND A HUGE ONE JUST LIKE YOU SAID BIG BROTHER!

SO HE REALLY IS A TRUE ZEROZAKI

I WILL

OPPOSING THE EVILEST BY OURSELVES MAY BE BEYOND US

.....

WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

IT SEEMS THE LITTLE GIRL IS INVOLVED AS WELL

海上自衛官だったころに某護衛艦に乗艦していたとき、機械室に入ったら、スパナ等の工具類が宙を舞っていたことがある。

大分県・児玉晃治(35)↑・社会人



98



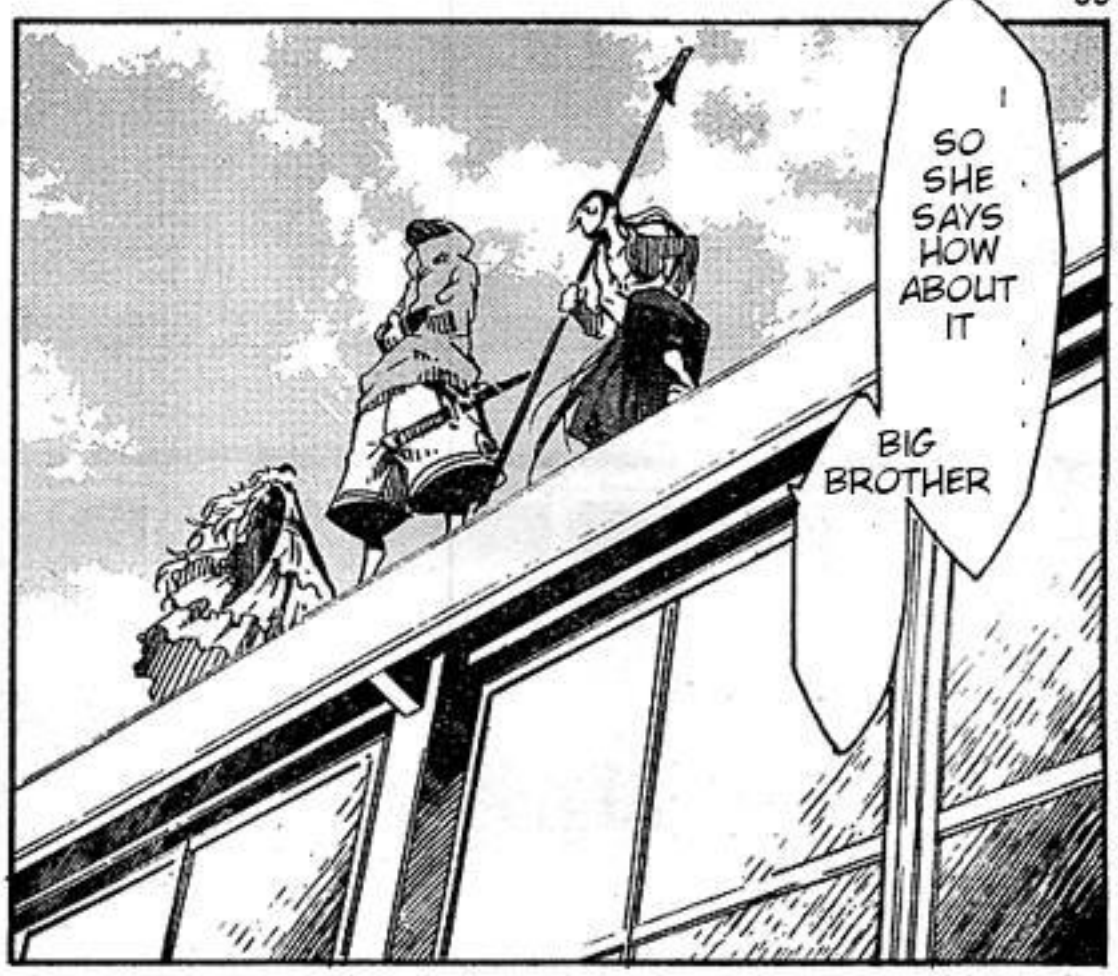
零崎双識の人間試験

good! AFTERNOON KC ウィッチクラフトワークス 1 2
水薙竜
僕のクラスメイトは、爆炎を操る地上最強の魔女！
絶賛発売中!!
定価 560円～570円（税込）

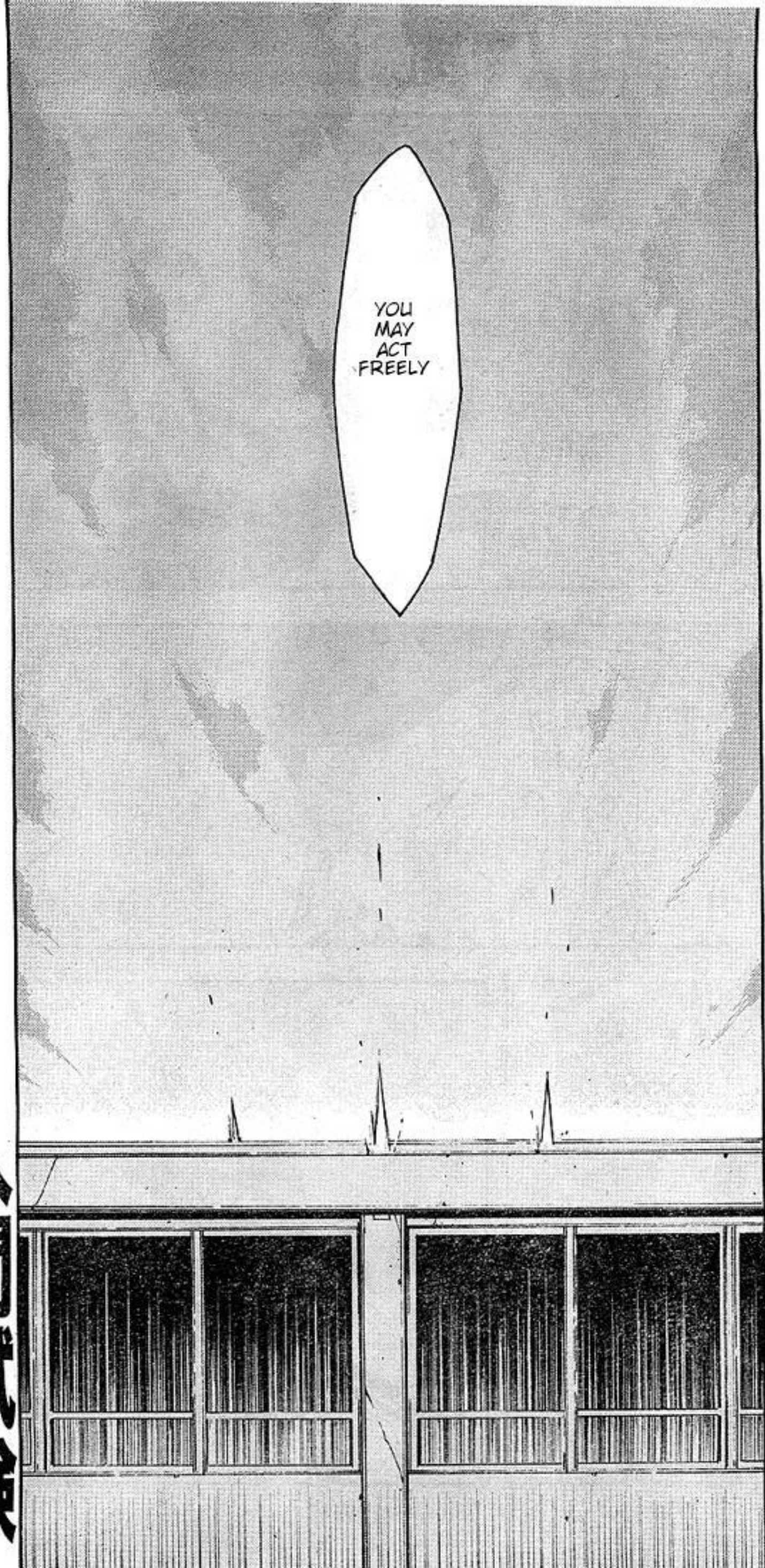








tl
canonrap
wcwtl



試練は始まった。さあ謳(うた)おう——悪を。愛を。青春を。

人間試験

第1話 She is beyond good and evil

了

次号12月号へ続く

西尾維新×シオミヤイルカ

超新連載2話目!!

五十嵐ヲ識の人間試験

抗えない運命でふたりは出会った。

その運命を「妹」は知らない。

QUITE THE STUBBORN HORSE

LETTING HER GET AWAY FROM ME WITH HER BARE HANDS

OH MY, OH MY...

THAT IS ALREADY A---

GEEZ HOMICIDAL MANIACS ARE SUCH NICE PEOPLE

奔放なる青春活劇、運命が疾走。

早くも話題集中！

CUTT-THROAT MURDERER

!!

零崎双識の人間試験

ゼロザキソウシキ

原作 西尾維新 ×

（講談社ノベルス「零崎双識の人間試験」より）

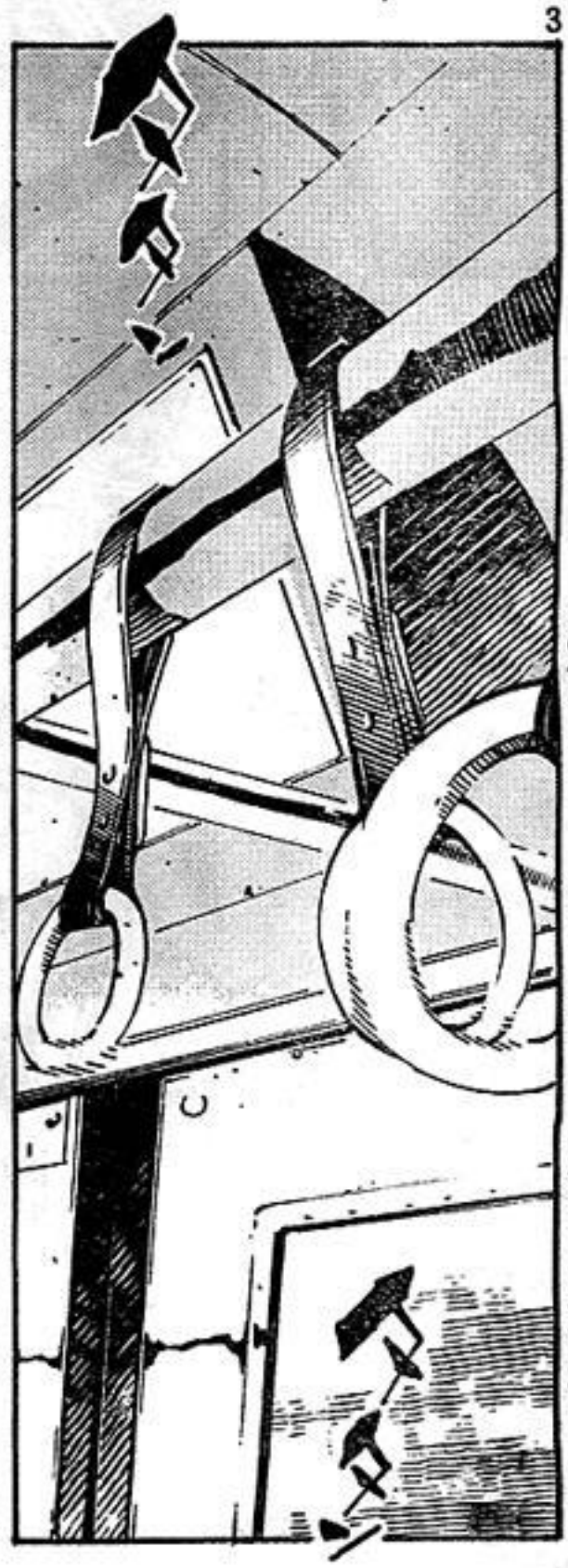
漫画 シオミヤイルカ

キャラクター原案 竹

人間試験 第2話 始









この作品はフィクションです。実在の人物・団体などとは一切関係ありません。











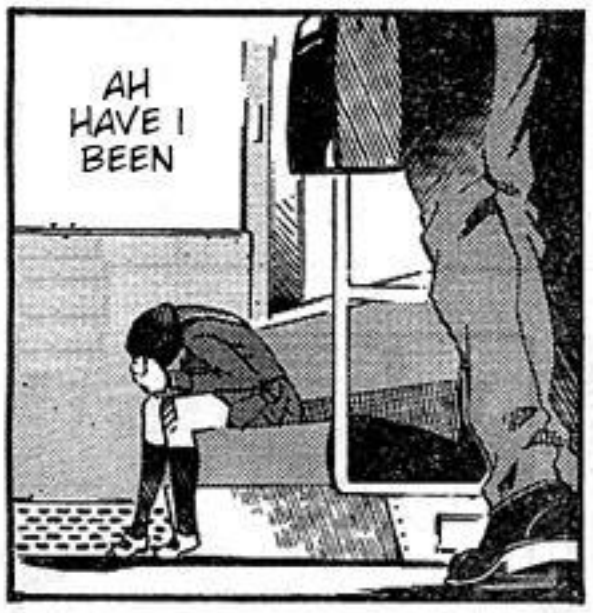














OVERTAKEN AFTER ALL?


ヒソ
ヒソ
ヒソ



YOU'LL ONLY BE ABLE TO THINK ABOUT KILLING PEOPLE ONCE YOU MEET THEM



WITHOUT A DOUBT, YOU'RE A

HOMICIDAL MANIAC

殺人狂ガール

?

10

I...

I...

JUST NOW,

WHAT DID I...

20

YOU'RE WRONG

YOU'RE WRONG

11

THERE'S NO WAY

THAT COULD BE...

21

.....

IT'S GOOD I GOT HOME BUT WHAT SHOULD I...

12

.....

uu..

uuu~~

22

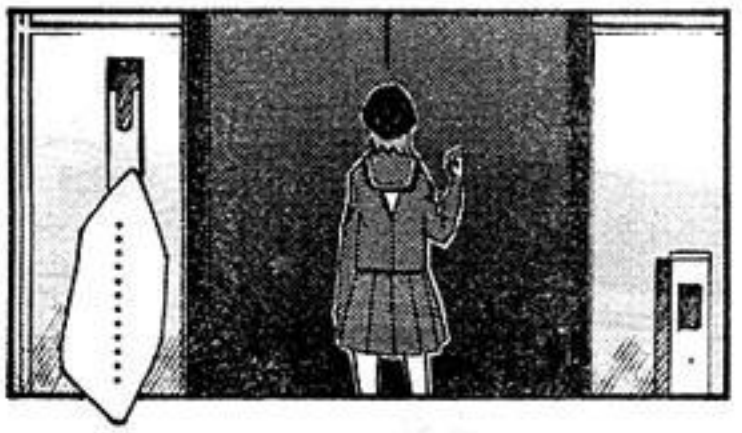
零崎双識の人間試験

それでは始めよう。悪を。愛を。青春を!!

大人気御礼!
原作ノベルス
西尾維新『零崎双識の人間試験』絶賛発売中!

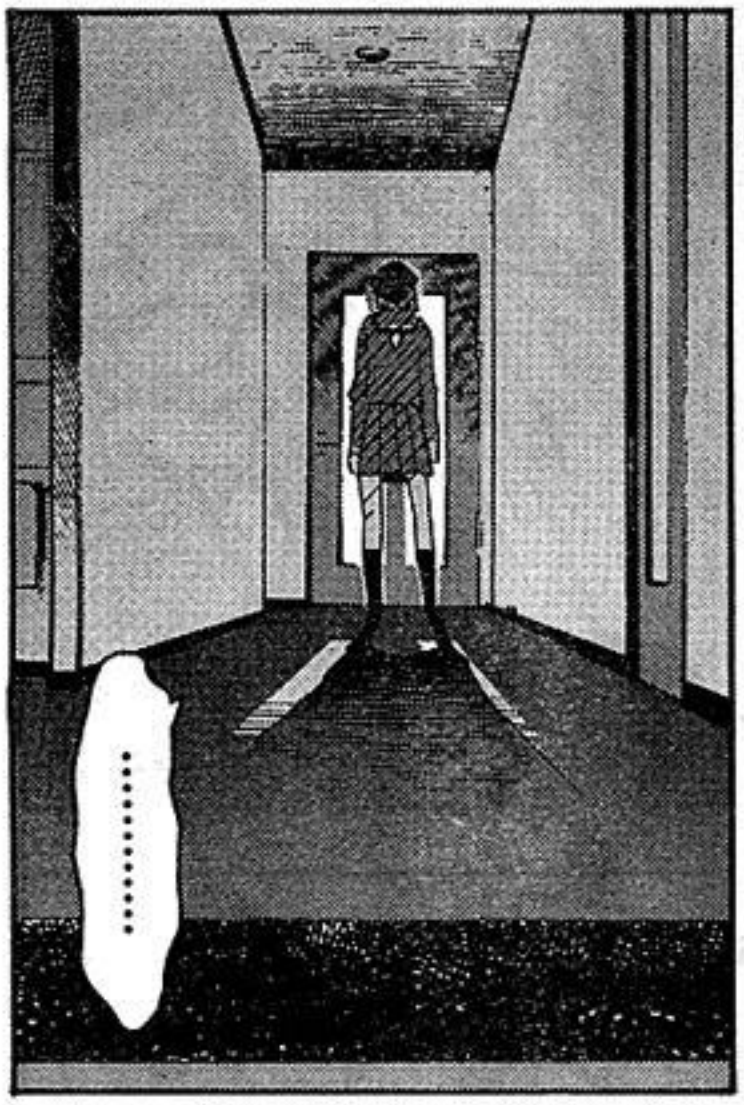
講談社ノベルス
定価：1365円(税込)















アナタのまわりの謎

父は庭いじりが趣味なのだが、ある日雨上がりに庭で水まきをしていた。

北海道・8歳1匡㈱さ・社会人

「少女」と「僕」の不十分な無関係。
西尾維新の最新刊ノベルス『少女不十分』絶賛発売中！
講談社ノベルス
定価：882円(税込)









アナタのまわりの謎

友人の弟は多岐にわたる種類の時計を狂わせることができる。身につける時間が長いと誤差の範囲も大きくなるらしく、腕時計や携帯の時計は当てにならないと嘆いていた。試しに持ってもらった新品の砂時計を狂わせたのを見たとき、嫌な汗をかいたのが忘れられません。時計以外はいたって普通の好青年なのですが……。

宮崎県・じん(♂)さ・社会人

!!

WE ALSO HAVE SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT

SIT DOWN

THEY WERE ALREADY CONTACTED BY THE POLICE

MAY... MAYBE

WHAT IS IT?

WHAT

.....

IORI

I HEARD-

零崎双識の人間試験

西尾維新の〈物語〉シリーズ最新作！『鬼物語』

絶賛発売中！

講談社BOX
定価：1365円(税込)





アナタのまわりの謎

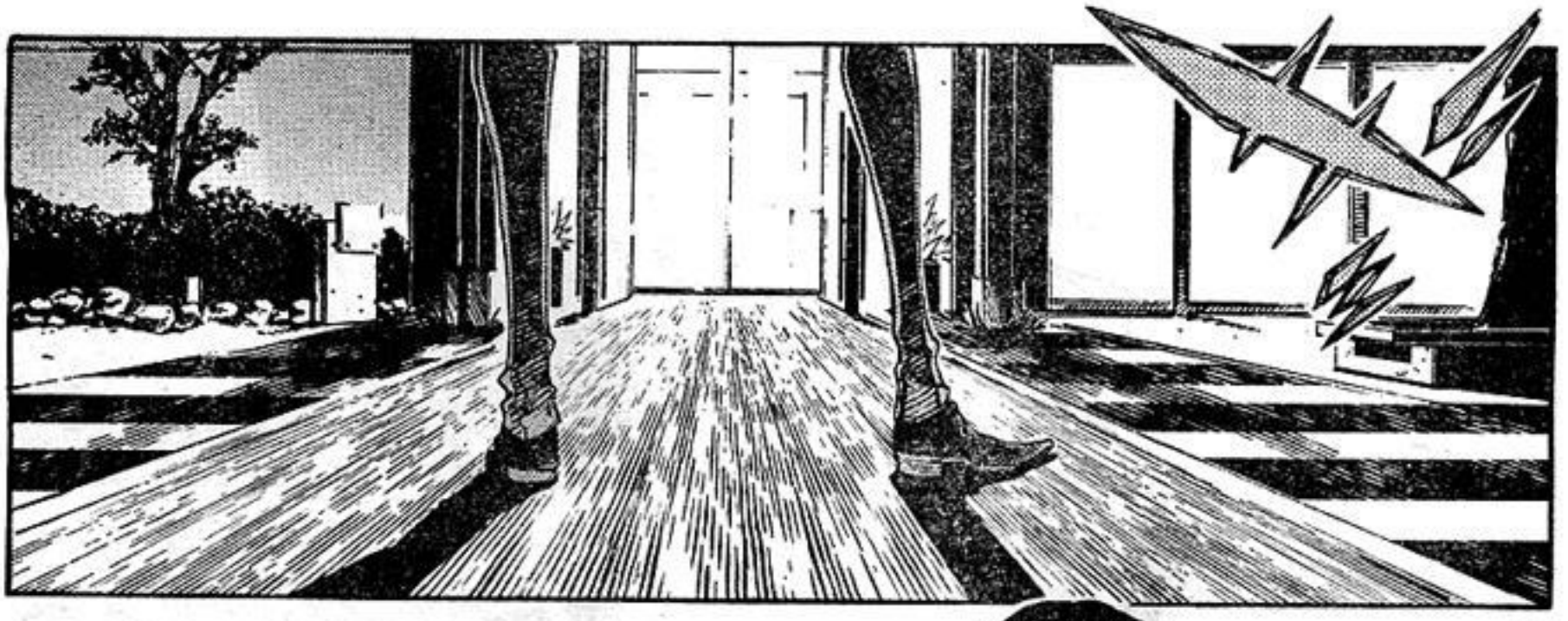
よく「ご主人は外国の方ですか？」と聞かれます。家のことは何も話していない人にまで。なぜ？

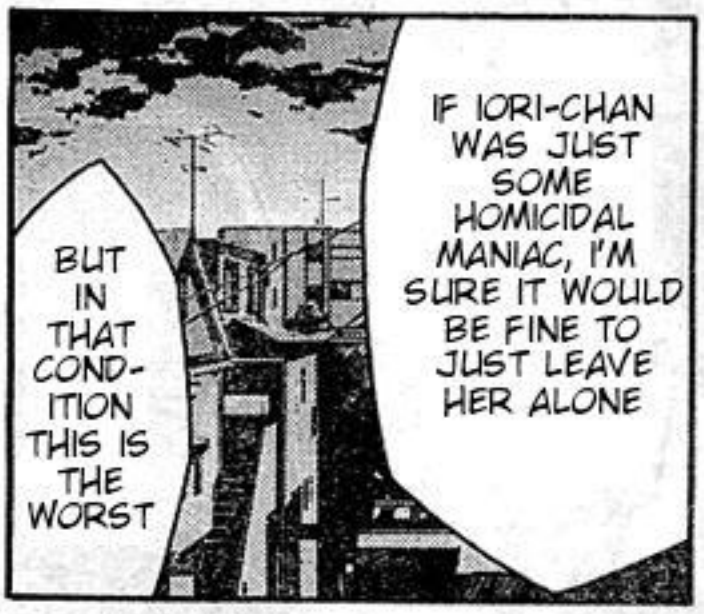
神奈川県・にゃん㊍♀・主婦



WHY...

ARGH

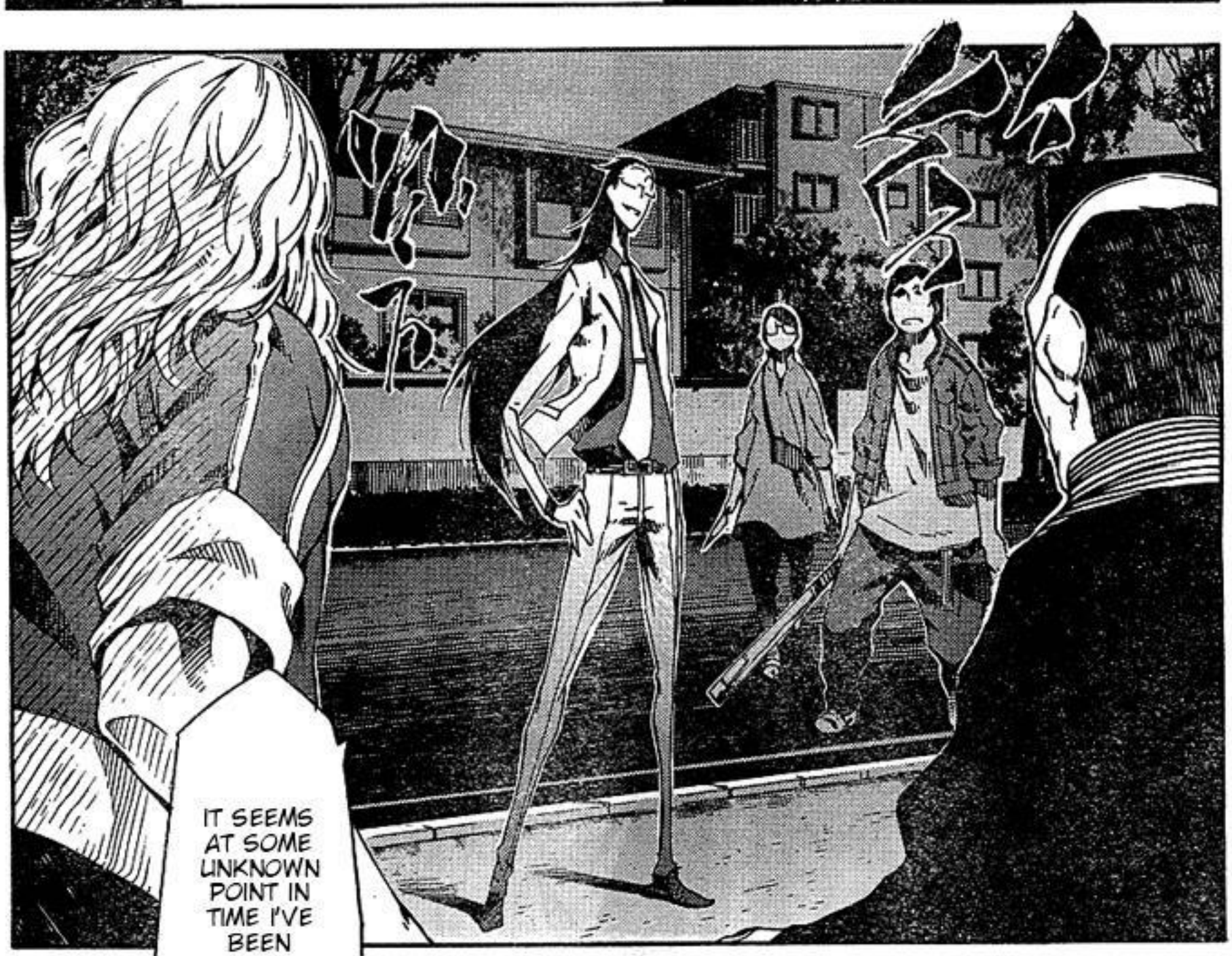



BUT IN THAT COND-ITION THIS IS THE WORST
IF IORI-CHAN WAS JUST SOME HOMICIDAL MANIAC, I'M SURE IT WOULD BE FINE TO JUST LEAVE HER ALONE


THIS TOWN MIGHT BE WIPED OFF THE MAP


SEEMS LIKE IT'S HERE


ALSO


IT SEEMS AT SOME UNKNOWN POINT IN TIME I'VE BEEN FORCED TO ACT UPON SOME UNKNOWN STAGE

LOOKING AFTER A YOUNGER SISTER IS THE OLDER BROTHER'S DUTY

HEH

AS THE OLDEST BRO-THER OF THE ZERO-ZAKI

I CAN'T LEAVE IT AS IT IS

GUH

ARG ..!

....O

ONII... SAN...

アナタのまわりの謎

警察から「落とし物が届いています」と電話がきたので、取りにいったら、5年前に期限の切れた免許が落ちていたらしい。なぜ家から出たのか不明で気持ち悪い。

長野県・エビタフ(32)・社会人


ONEE-SAN
OTOU-SAN
OKAA-SA..N
THIS CAN'T BE.. CAN IT
THIS KIND OF..
.....
?
TE... ARS?



26

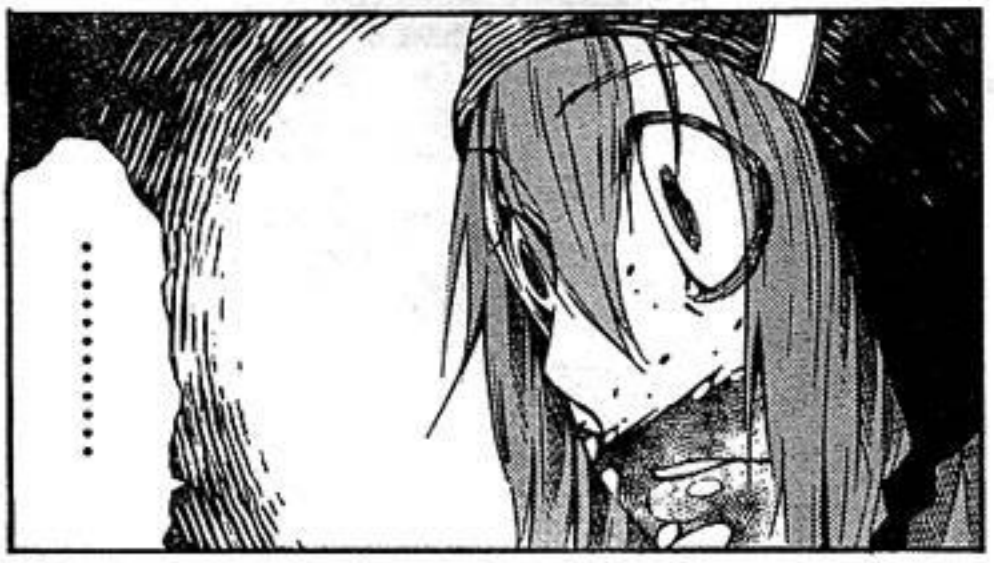


36


I SAID STOP!





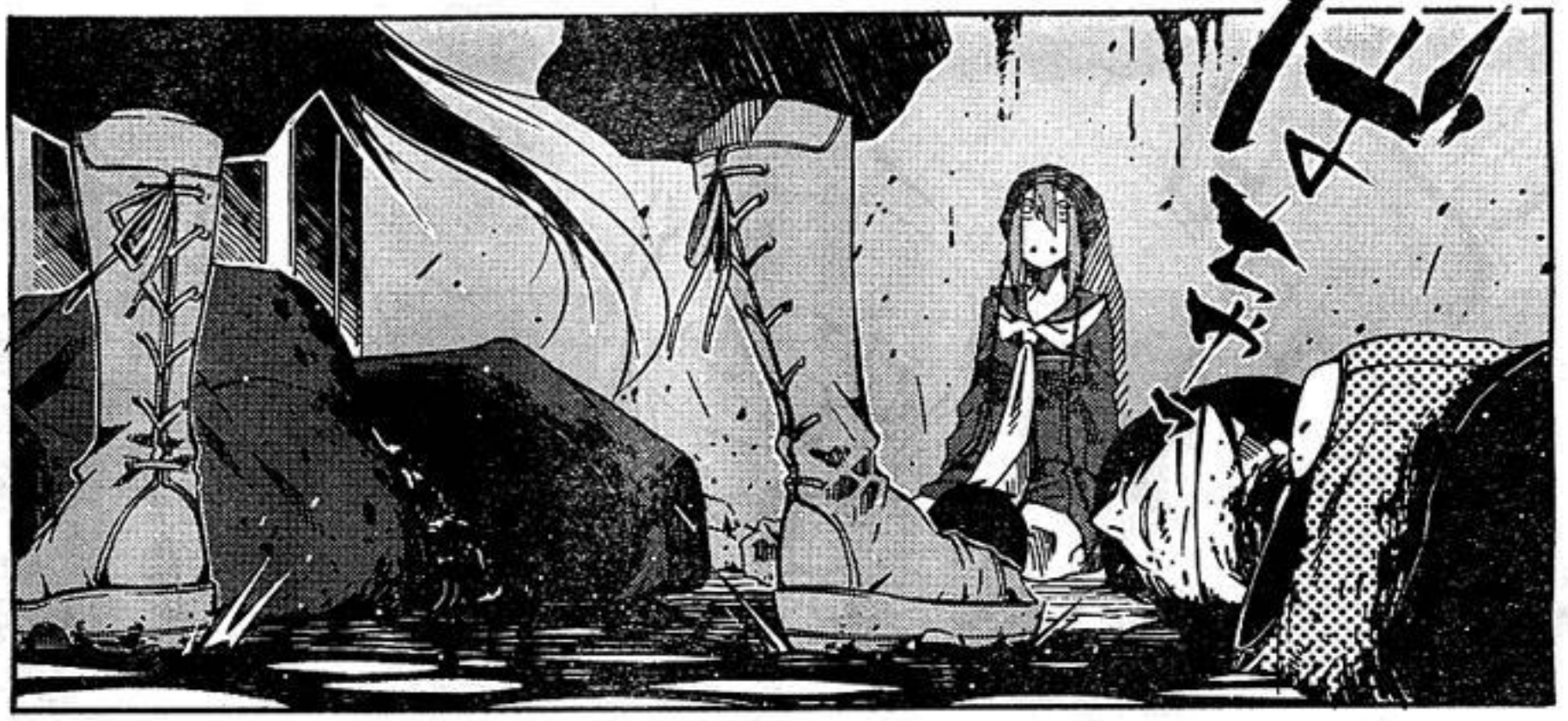

.....

JUST A MINUTE JUST A MINUTE

IORI-SAN!?

WHAT

WHAT ARE YOU DOING LOOKING LIKE YOU COULD BE KILLED OFF SO EASILY!







GEEZ, REALLY, WHAT'S WITH HIM

JUST LEAVE ME ALONE ALREADY GEEZ!

"DON'T RUN" "DON'T RUN" HE SAYS

EVERYTIME WE PASS EACH-OTHER

FOUGHT AGAIN THE TWO OF YOU?

YOU GET ALONG SO WELL-

WE DON'T GET ALONG AT ALL!

ONII-SAN HATES ME!

!?

IT'S ACTUA-LLY THE OPPOSITE ISN'T IT

YOU SEE KENGO'S SISTER IS SO CUTE HE CAN'T HELP IT

IF HE REALLY DID HATE YOU HE WOULD FLAT-OUT NOT TALK TO YOU

.....

IT'S BECAUSE OF THAT HE WANTS YOU TO BECOME SOMEONE WHO CAN DECIDE THNIGS ABOUT YOURSELF FOR YOURSELF

IT'S LIKE THAT

IT'S LIKE THAT?..

IN THE END

KENG WORRIES ABOUT YOU THE MOST YOU KNOW

...AH GEEZ

零崎双識の人間試験

『非実在推理少女あ～や❶』シオミヤイルカ 原作／錦メガネ 11月10日発売！
発行：星海社
定価：630円(税込)



35



45

QUITE A LOOK IN YOUR EYES

DON'T TRY TO PLAY ORDINARY

TO YOU GUYS THIS MUCH IS THE USUAL FARE ISN'T IT?

36

I THOUGHT IT WAS WEIRD YOU WERE LIVING WITH NORMALS IN THE FIRST PLACE

COULD IT POSSIBLY BE THAT YOU'RE

.....

HAA

HAA

46

THERE IT IS AGAIN ...

ARE YOU SERIOUS?

HAA

HAA

...NOT A ZERO-ZAKI?

ZERO-ZAKI...

I DON'T BELIEVE THIS SHIT!!

COUNTING ON THAT SHIT TOKINOMIYA'S SHITTY DOLLS WAS A MISTAKE!

38

SI-
~~
GH

ZERO-ZAKI

DOLLS

TOKO-NO-MIYA

WHAT IS THIS GUY SAYING

48

零崎双識の人間試験 これぞエンタメ! 漫画の力!!

アフタヌーンKC

新装版 スマグラー

真鍋昌平

報酬は日給5万円。挑むは人生最悪の修羅場!
今なお熱狂的支持を集める真鍋昌平の連載デビュー作!!

絶賛発売中!!

定価
680円
(税込)



JUST WHAT IS ALL OF THIS!!

NEVERMIND THAT, WHO ARE YOU

DOING THIS KIND OF THING

WHAT DO YOU WANT

.....

ZERO-ZAKI YOU SEE

TOOK SOMETHING IMPORT-ANT FROM US

SO--

THIS TIME WE'RE GOING TO TAKE SOMETHING IMPORTANT FROM HIM

WELL

IT SEEMS LIKE NII-SAN HAS SOMETHING ELSE IN MIND THOUGH

IT'S NOTHING THAT CONCERNS YOU

...FOR SOME-THING LIKE THAT...

FOR SOME-THING LIKE THAT

THAT'S RIGHT

THESE IMPORTANT THINGS TO YOU WERE USED FOR **SOMETHING LIKE THAT** AND THEY DIED

I'M NO DEMON

KIND OF ME ISN'T IT

HAA-

I'LL LET YOU DIE HERE TOGETHER WITH THEM

WHAT IS THIS GUY SAYING..

HAA-

零崎双識の人間試験

HAA-
AAA...

HAA-
AAA...

FARE-
WELL

THIS
PERSON...

I WANT
TO KILL
HIM

WELL
THEN,
THIS IS
WHERE
WE
PART
WAYS

I
WANT
TO
KILL...

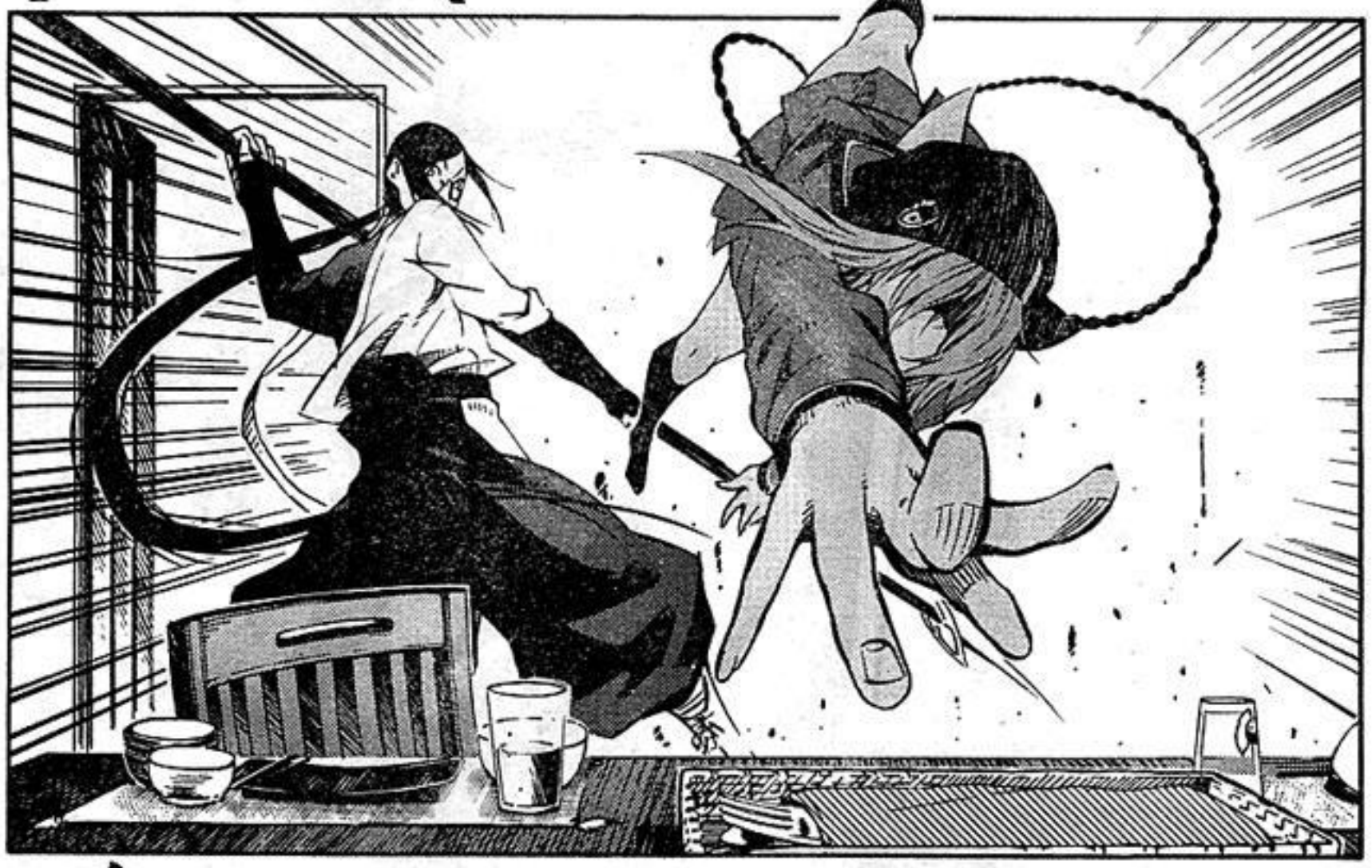
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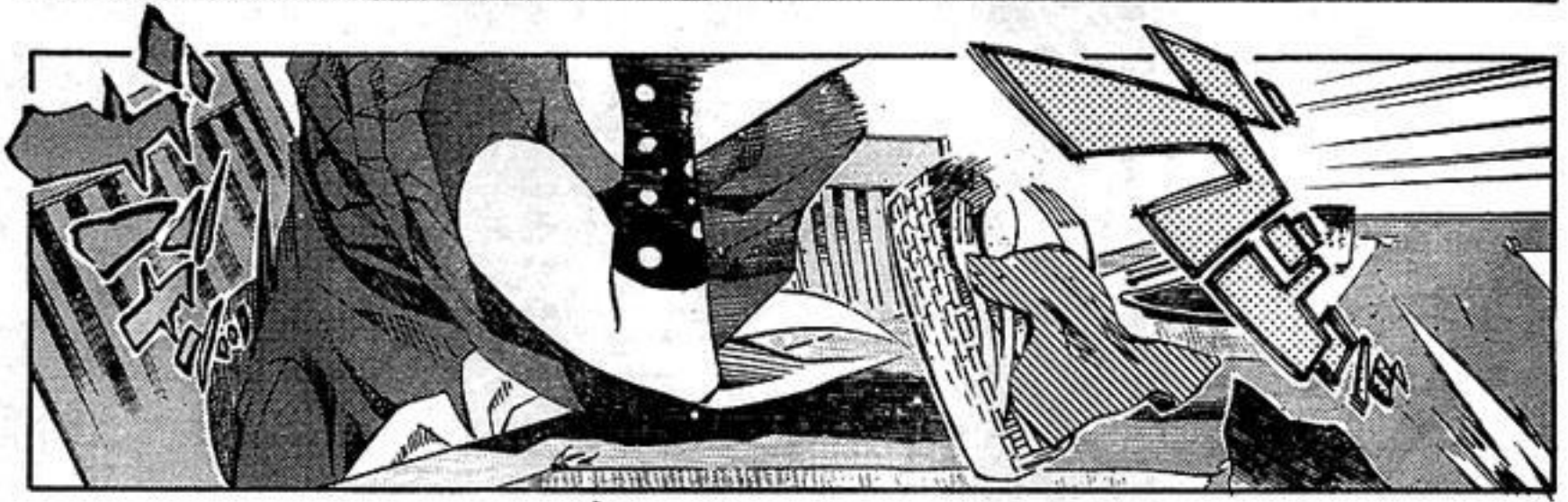

CRASH


WHAT!?

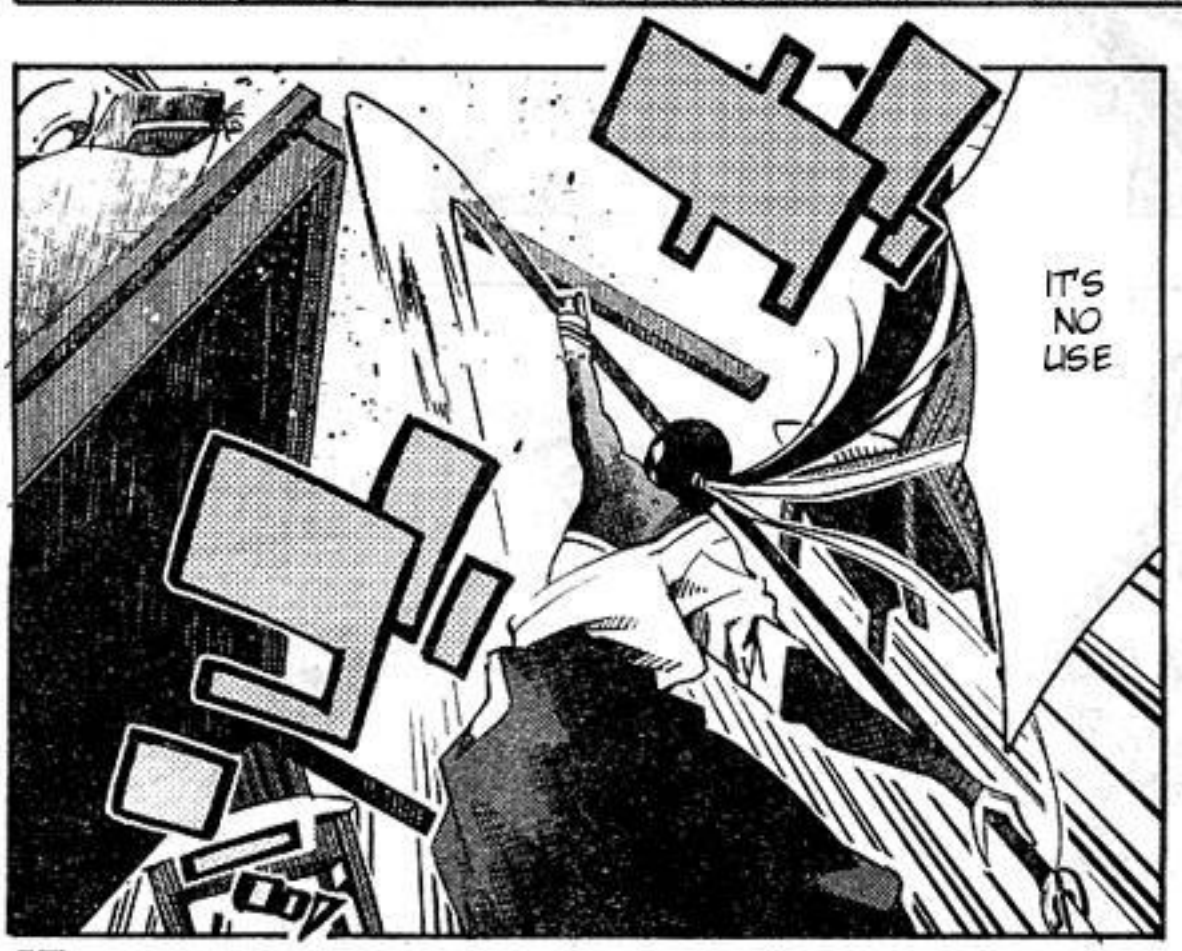


零崎双識の人間試験





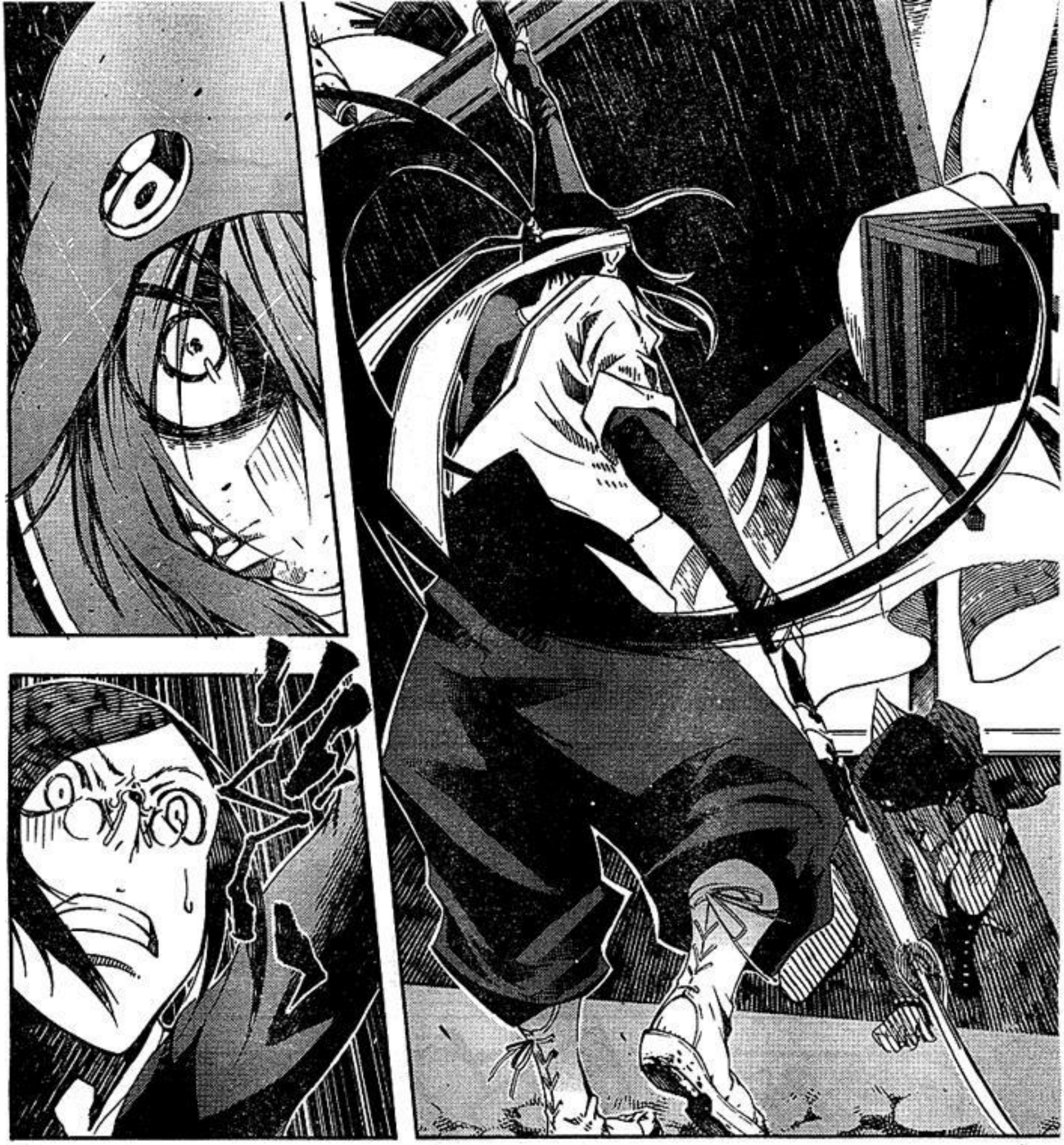
47





57

48



SHE WON'T GET ME WITH THAT REACH

BUT

WHEN DID SHE..

A FORK !?

SHE THREW...

!!

アナタのまわりの謎

ある朝、目覚めると枕もとにミケ猫が。密室だったんですが……？

東京都・平賀健介(24)さ・社会人

NO
NO
NO
NO

HAH!

50

60




YOU CAN DO IT AFTER ALL


HAA-
HAA ...
HAA ...

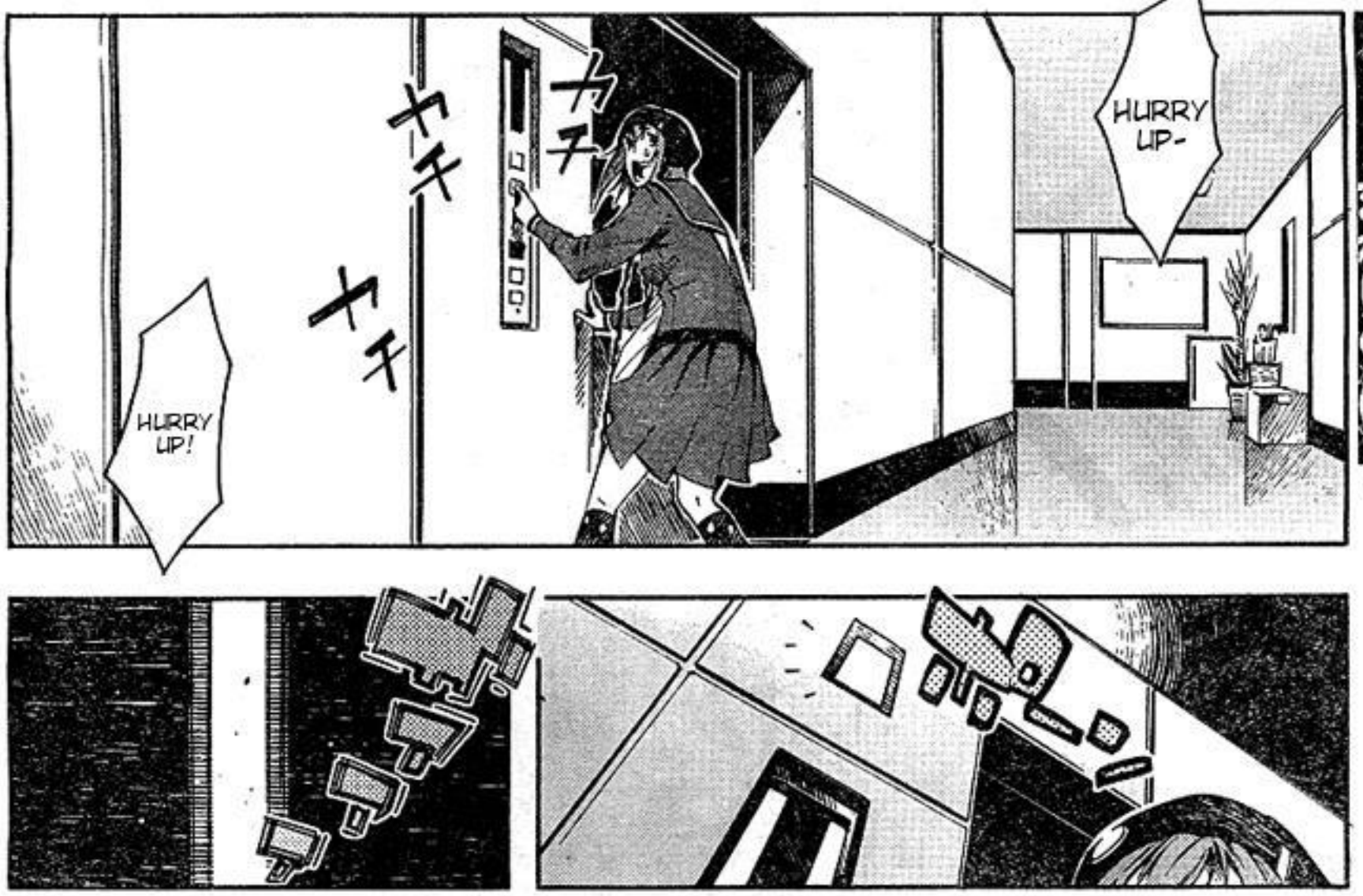



IORI-SAN

アナタのまわりの謎

通勤ルートの狭い土地に立つ、横幅が非常に短いカステラを切って立てたようなビル。内部の間取りが気になります。見てみたい。

岡山県・うどん(44)さん・社会人







零崎双識の人間試験











WHY DOES THIS ALWAYS HAPPEN TO ME!

WHY DID MY FAMILY ...

ALSO, TOO MANY PEOPLE ARE AFTER MY LIFE TODAY

SPEAKING OF WHICH WHO IS THIS HAKAMA GUY!

GOT TO RUN!

GOT TO RUN

IN ANY CASE I'VE GOT TO RUN

"DON'T RUN"

"YOU WILL BE ONLY BE ABLE TO THINK OF KILLING PEOPLE ONCE YOU MEET THEM"

I WAS ONLY PROT-ECTING MYSELF!

"IN THE END REACH-ING YOUR LIMITS AND LOSING YOUR WAY WILL BE THE MOST YOU CAN DO"

BUT I'VE GOT TO KEEP RUNNING SO I'M NOT OVERTAKEN RIGHT?

"YOU'VE BEEN CONST-ANTLY RUNNING EVER SINCE YOU WERE BORN"

踏み外してしまった

YOU'RE WRONG

YOU'RE WRONG

YOU'RE WRONG

YOU'VE ALREADY---

UP UNTIL NNOW I'VE NEVER ONCE THOUGHT OF WANTING TO KILL SOMEONE!

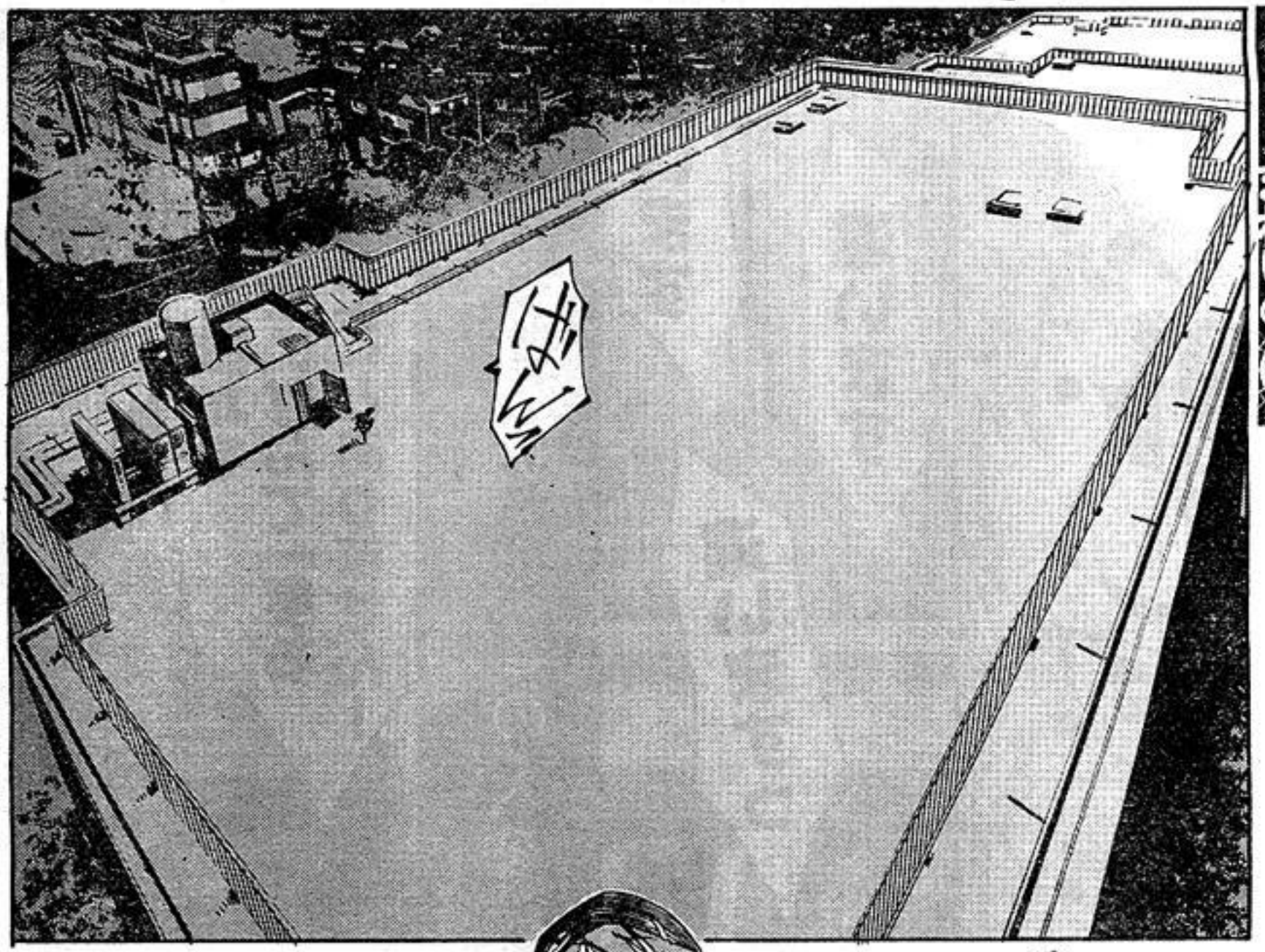
"I WANT TO KILL .... I WANT TO KILL THIS PERSON"

"SET FOOT ON THE WRONG PATH"

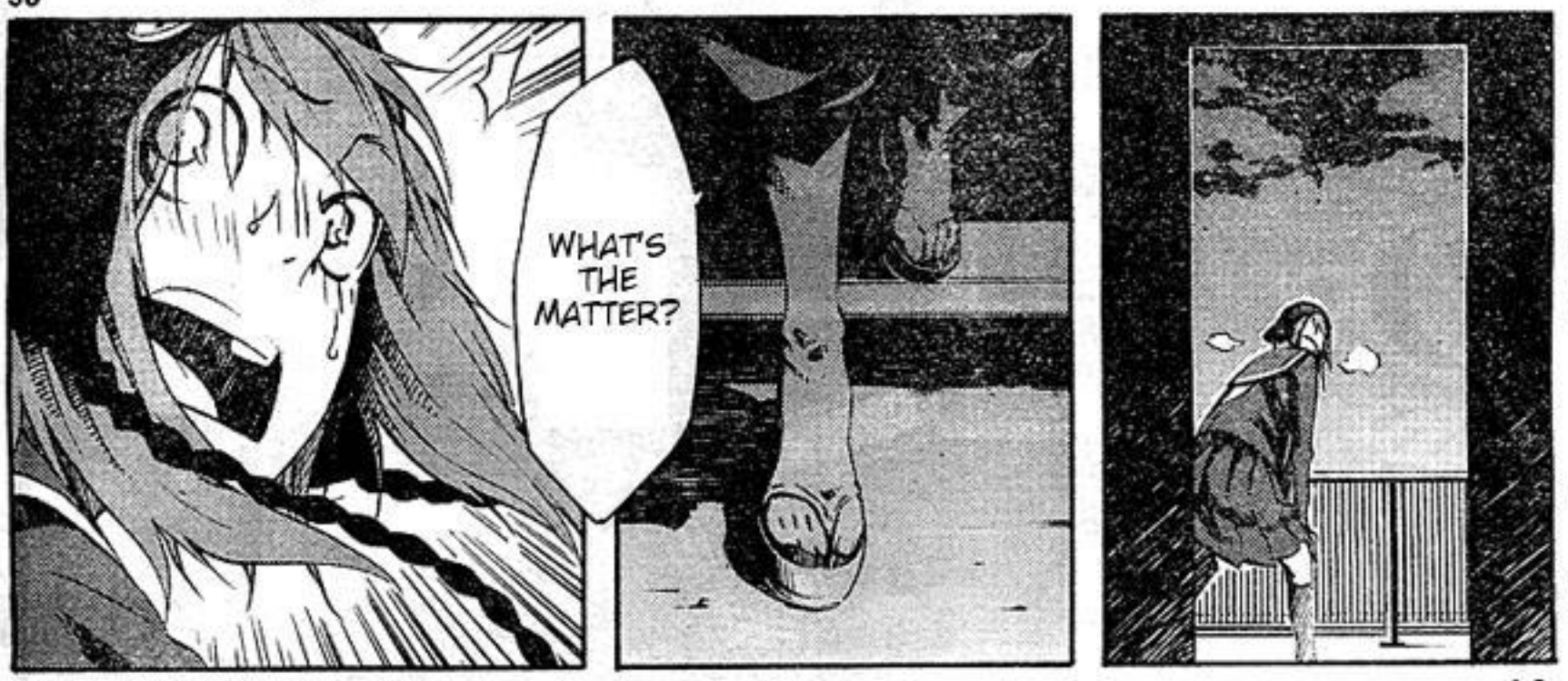
アナタのまわりの謎

謎といえば、道路に「なんで?」って思うものがよく落ちている。特に高速道路に落ちてる靴とかスリッパとか。

石川県・xinn㊍さ・社会人



58



68

零崎双識の人間試験

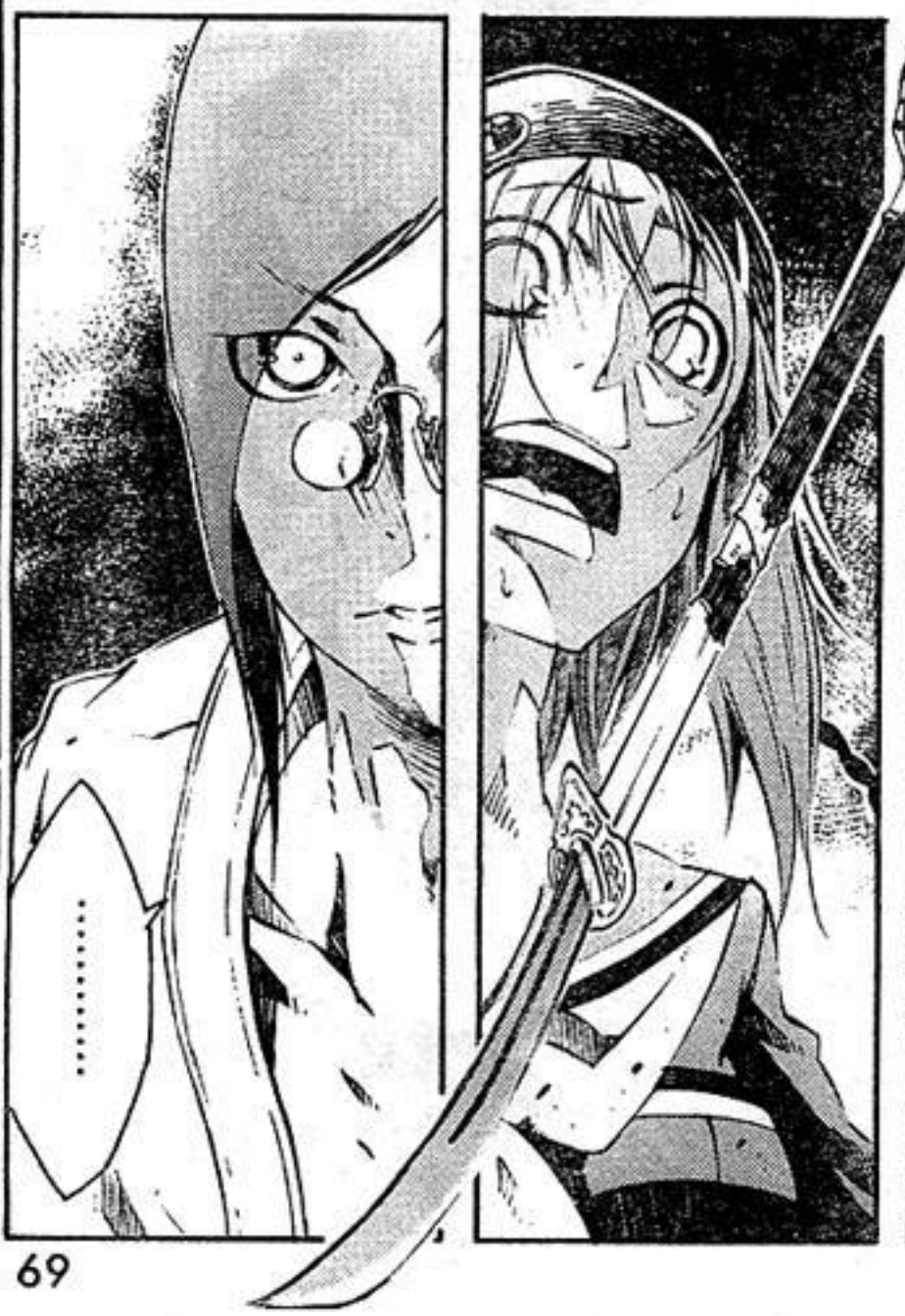
美女と猫が空を駆け、
謎の島を巡る壮大な
海洋アドベンチュア！



AFTER NOON
KC DX
最新刊
冒険工レキテ島❶鶴田謙二
絶賛発売中!!
定価
980円
(税込)









WELL THIS IS ANTI-CLIMATIC

EH?

DO... DON'T

BE LIKE THAT...

THE BLOODTHIRST UP UNTIL NOW SEEMED LIKE IT WAS GOING TO OVERFLOW WHERE DID IT GO?

HEY

HAA ~~

60

I REALLY DON'T GET WHAT'S GOING ON

70

NO MATTER HOW OR WHERE YOU LOOK AT IT, I'M JUST A CUTE HIGH SCHOOL GIRL AREN'T I?~

AT THE MOMENT BEING GUARDINGLY ANXIOUS TO PLEASE SOMEONE WHO JUST KILLED YOUR FAMILY

REACTING INNOCENTLY LIKE A NORMAL PERSON

IT JUST DOESN'T ADD UP

.....

COMING AT ME WITH A DREADFUL AMOUNT OF BLOODLUST

BUILDING UP A SINGLE HYPOTHE-SIS

IT'S AT THIS POINT THAT I'M NOW

61

IORI-CHAN YOU ARE...

FOR SOMEONE WHO'S BOTH LIKE AND UNLIKE A ZEROZAKI

I'M NOT REALLY WELL-IMFORMED

SO I DON'T KNOW IF THIS IS A TRANSFOR-MATION OR AWAKEN-ING, BUT

71

UNLIKE NII-SAN I'M NOT SO CAREFUL

BUT HERE WE SHOULD DEFINITELY-

!?

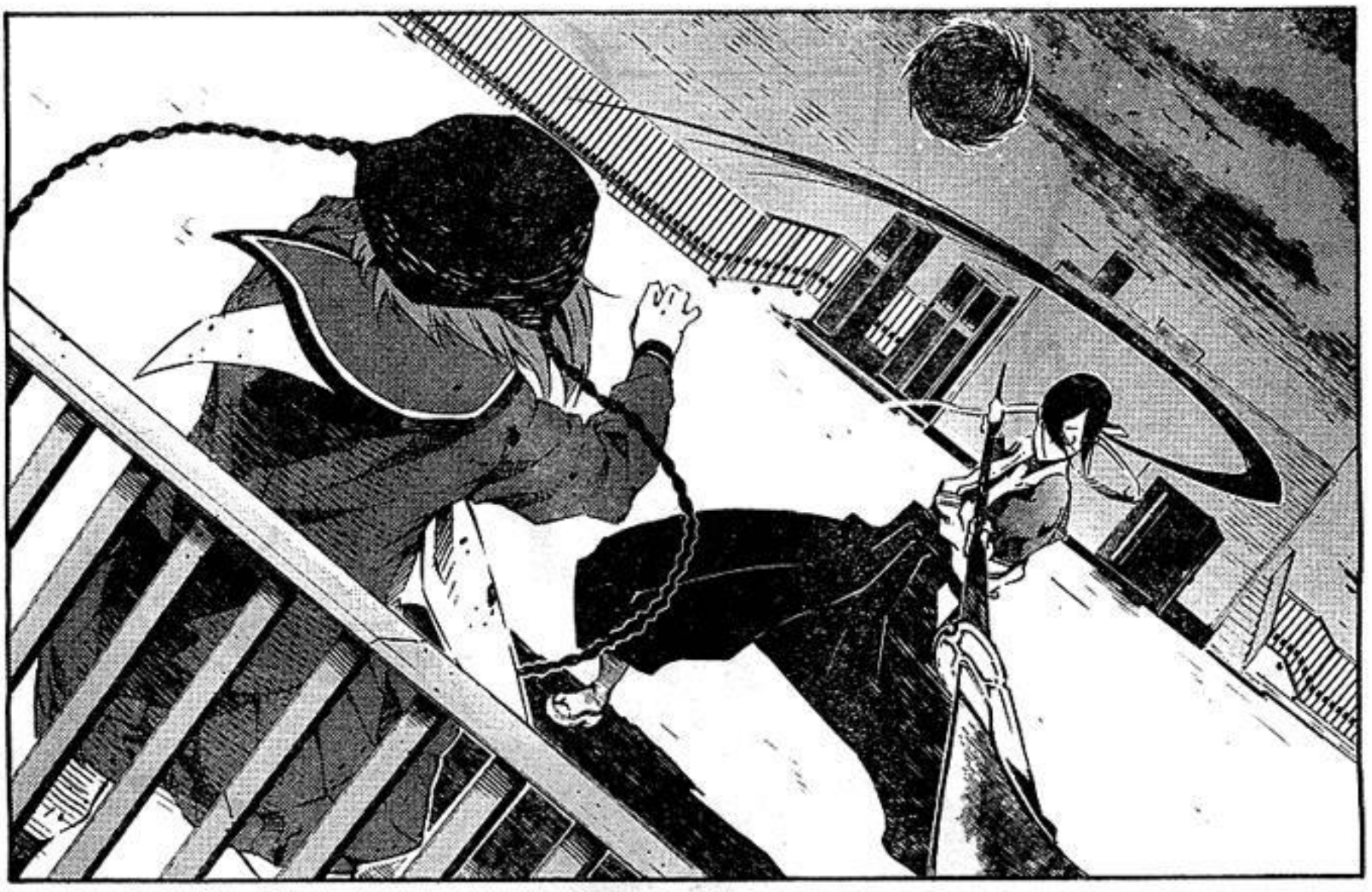
ISN'T THAT WHAT'S HAPPEN-ING?

START-ING TO BECOME A ZERO-ZAKI

KILL YOU PRE-EMPTIVELY

63

73



64

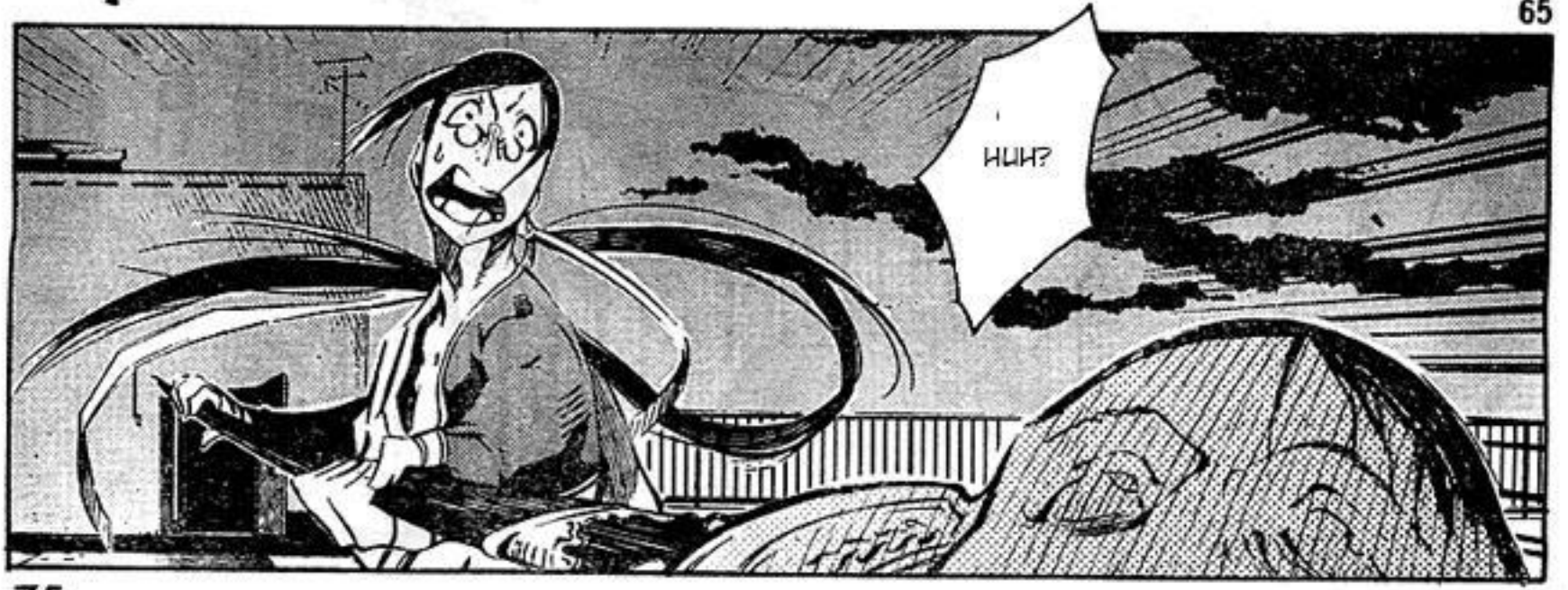




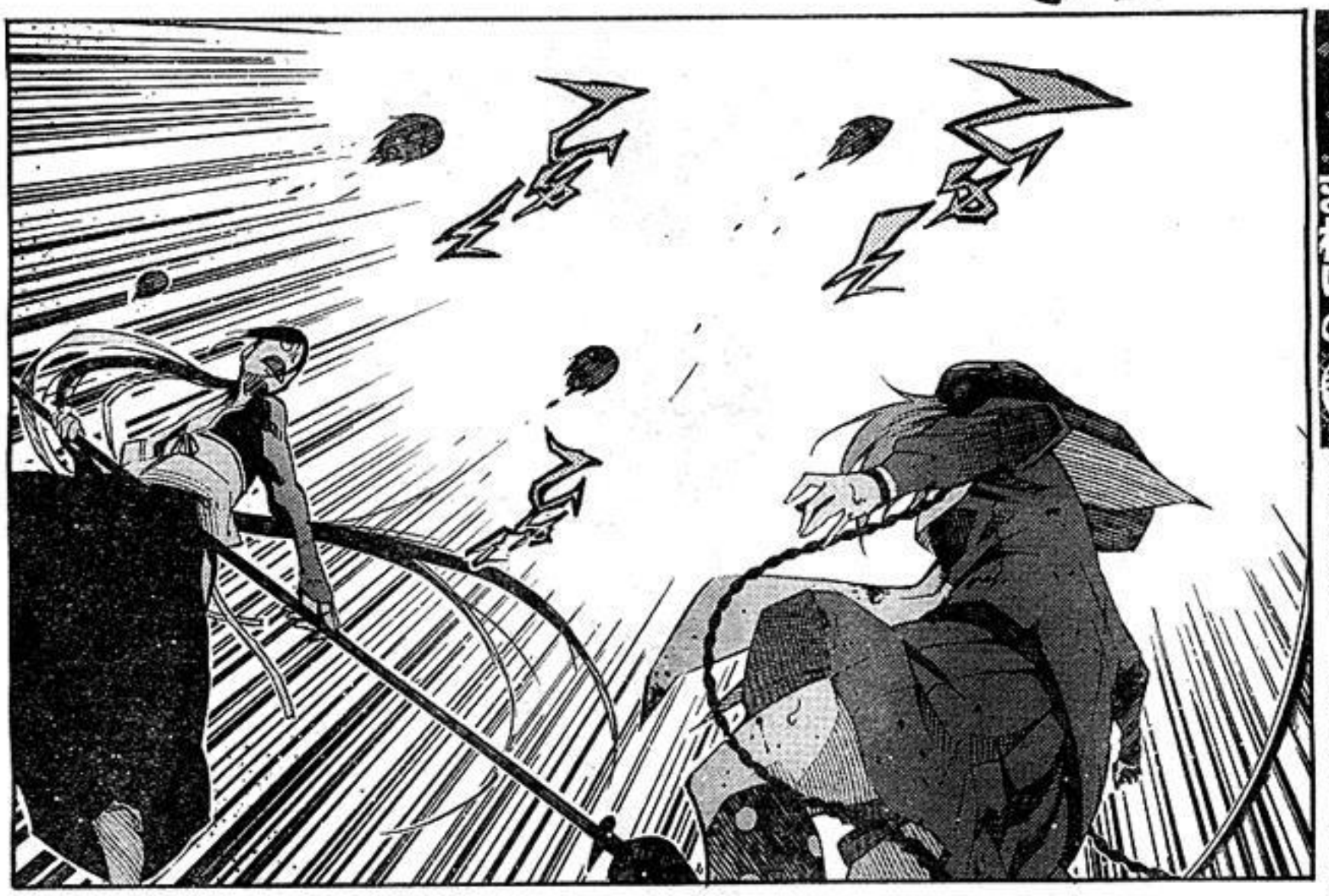
零崎双識の人間試験



65



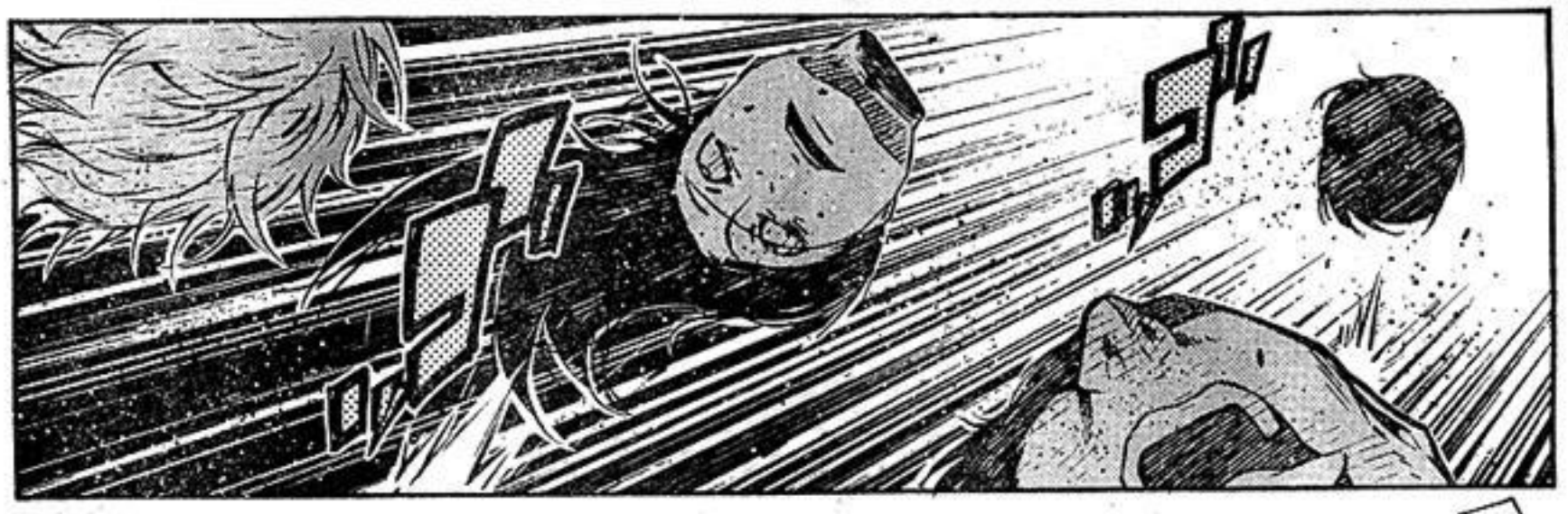
75

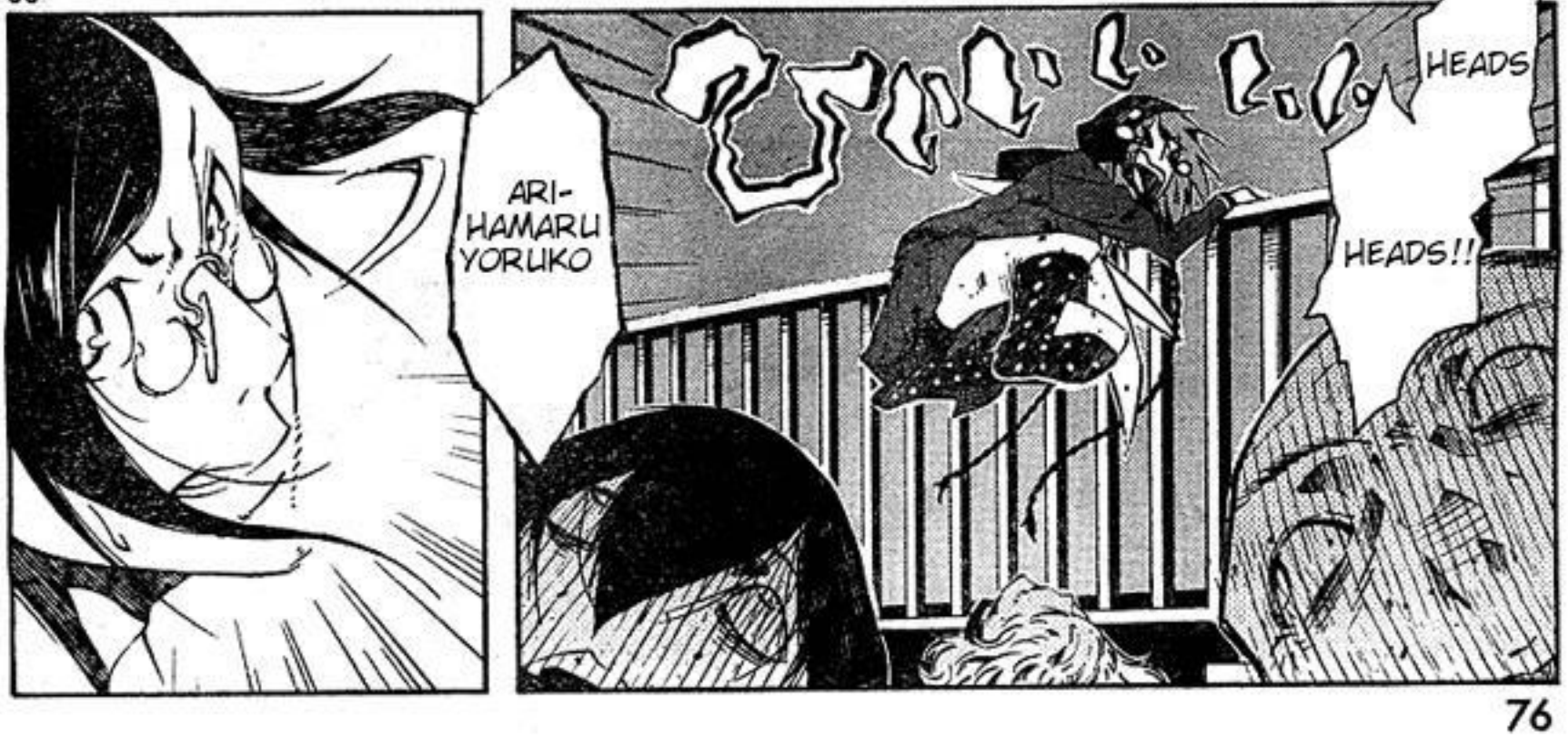


アナタのまわりの謎

一時、謎の夢をいろいろと見ました。中世ヨーロッパで明日の支払いに困る商人とか近未来の宇宙ステーションで漫才のネタを考えてるとか……あれは何だったのだろう。

兵庫県・ドージマ(21)さ・社会人





MASA-
GURA
HIROAKI

IKE-
HASHI
RKU-
YUKI

KOU-
ZUKI
MAYUE

KAJINO
MODOKA

KITADA
KURA-
HIKO

67

FAIL

ALL
OF
THEM-

ONII-CHAN
HAS

I MADE
YOU WAIT
DIDN'T I
IORI-CHAN

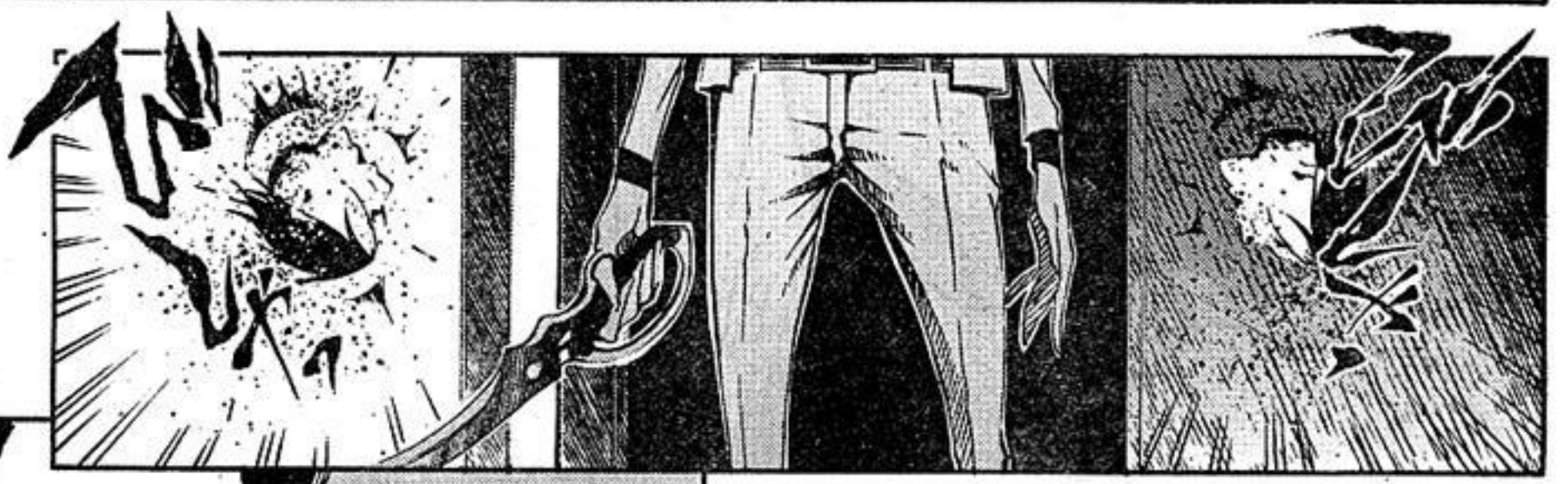
77

COME TO HELP~~

68

78






MIND RENDELL....
HEH HEH
.....

TO THE YOUNG HALBERD-KUN OVER THERE

I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE

BUT FOR THE SAKE OF PROTECT-ING MY LITTLE SISTER

THE ZEROZAKI FAMILY'S ELDEST BROTHER, ZEROZAKI SOUSHIKI

WILL FACE YOU

これが「零崎」――試験開始!!

人間試験 第2問 了

次号1月号へ続く

零崎双識の人間試験

WILL FACE YOU

FOR THE SAKE OF PROTECTING MY NEW LITTLE SISTER

THE ELDEST BROTHER OF THE ZEROZAKI FAMILY, ZEROSAKI SOUSHIKI

生まれたての殺人狂——いや、殺人鬼。
迷える「妹（伊織）」の危機に「兄（双識）」が駆けつけた。

人間試験 第3問 始

零崎双識の人間試験

震えるぞ心

めくるめく魂。

単行本1巻通常版・特装版12月22日発売！

講談社文庫版『零崎双識の人間試験』12月15日発売予定！

原作ノベルス待望の文庫化！

原作 西尾維新（にしおいしん）

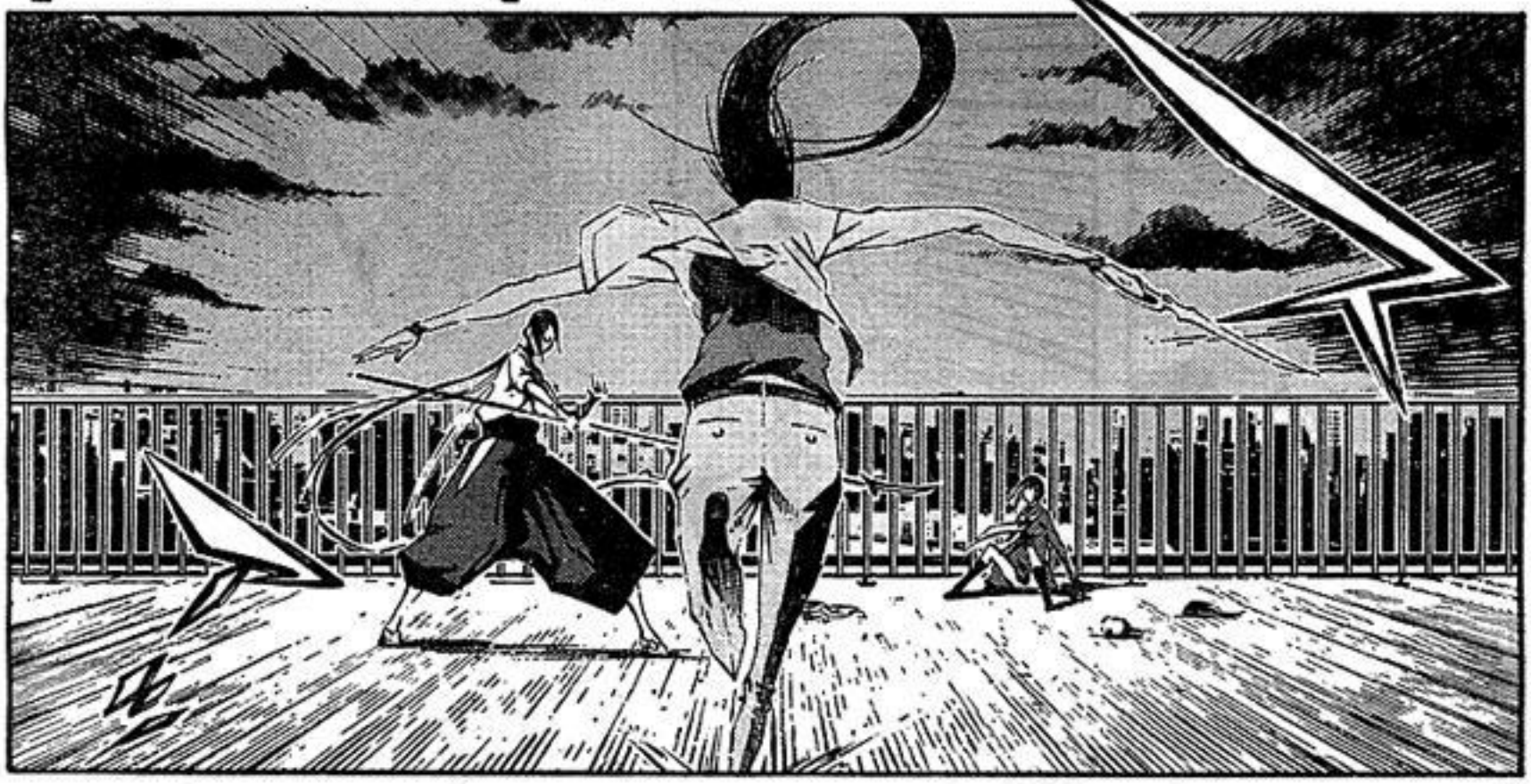
（講談社ノベルス「零崎双識の人間試験」より）

漫画 シオミヤイルカ

キャラクター原案 竹（たけ）

TL - WCWTL.BLOGSPOT.COM

零崎双識の人間試験



3







79

西尾維新×シオミヤイルカ『零崎双識の人間試験』❶通常版・特装版 12月22日発売！

詳しい情報は本編後の広告へ！

!!

4

この作品はフィクションです。実在の人物・団体などとは一切関係ありません。

零崎双識の人間試験

ONII-CHAN..

YOU CAN REST EASY NOW IORI-CHAN

キョキ

キョキ

CAME TO HELP

5

WHAT DO YOU MEAN ONII-CHAN?

FORGET THAT WHY ARE YOU HERE!?

SPEC-
IFIC-
LY

THIS IS ALL A TECHNIQUE TO ESTABLISH LOVE BETWEEN SIBLINGS

HEH HEH

WHERE DID THE LOVE GO?!

I SAW THE ADDRESS FROM IORI-CHAN'S STUDENT ID CARD

6

PLEASE DON'T BRAG SO PROUDLY ABOUT YOUR PICK-POCKETING!

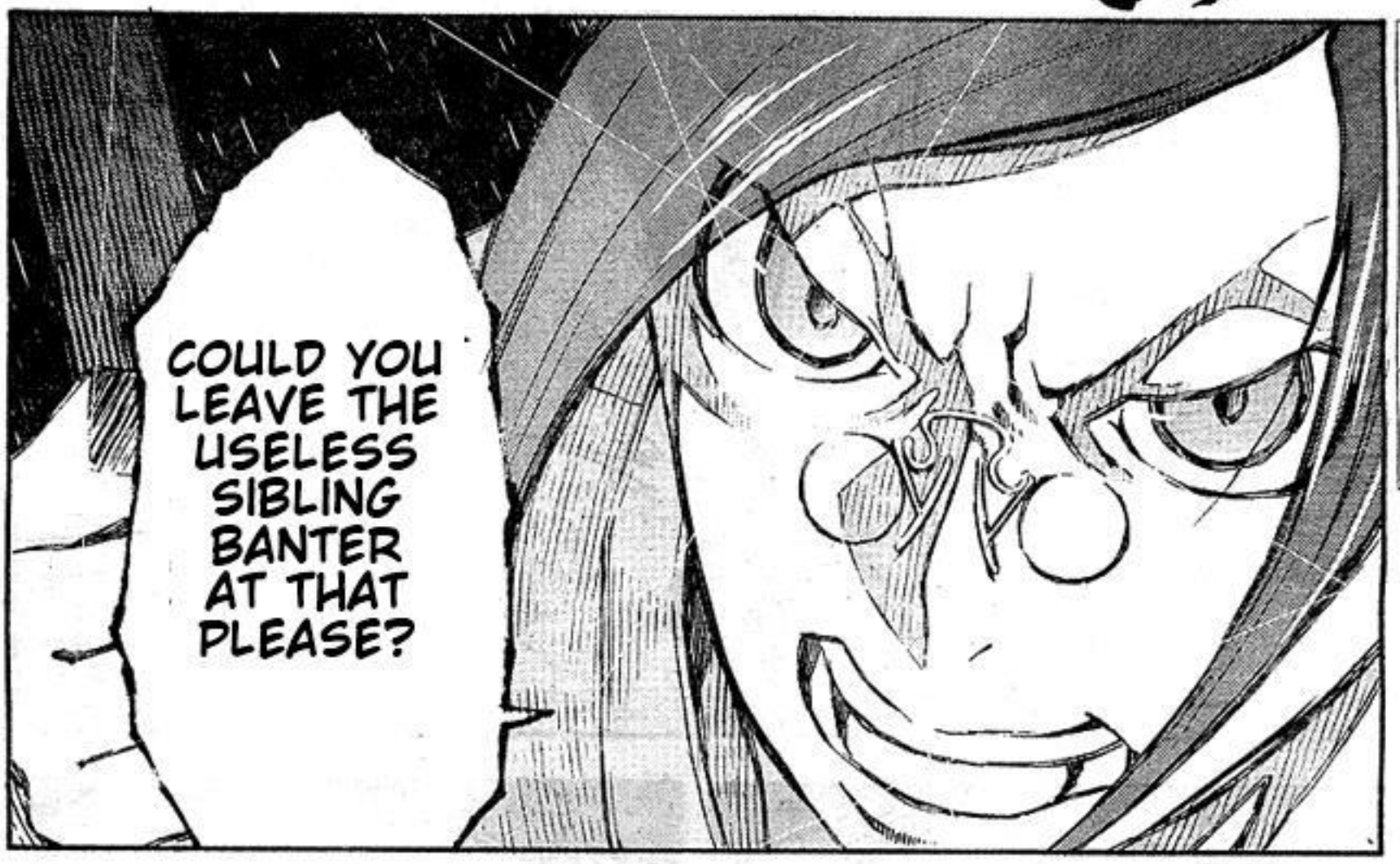
IF IT'S FOR MY CUTE SISTER, BIG BROTHER CAN DO WHATEVER IT TAKES

WHICH MEANS YOU DID IT WHEN WE FIRST MET!?

AH

THAT'S WHY YOU KNEW MY NAME AS WELL





お題フリー 欄外 四季賞

昔、働いていた職場のまかないのおばちゃんの名前が「捨子（すてこ）」でした。何を思って捨てるという字を我が子に付けたのか、捨てるにどんな意味と願いを込めたのか、謎（なぞ）です。

愛知県・本間ムックル(31)♀・主婦

THEY'RE NOT SOMETHING SO EASILY GAINED AND LOST....!

!!



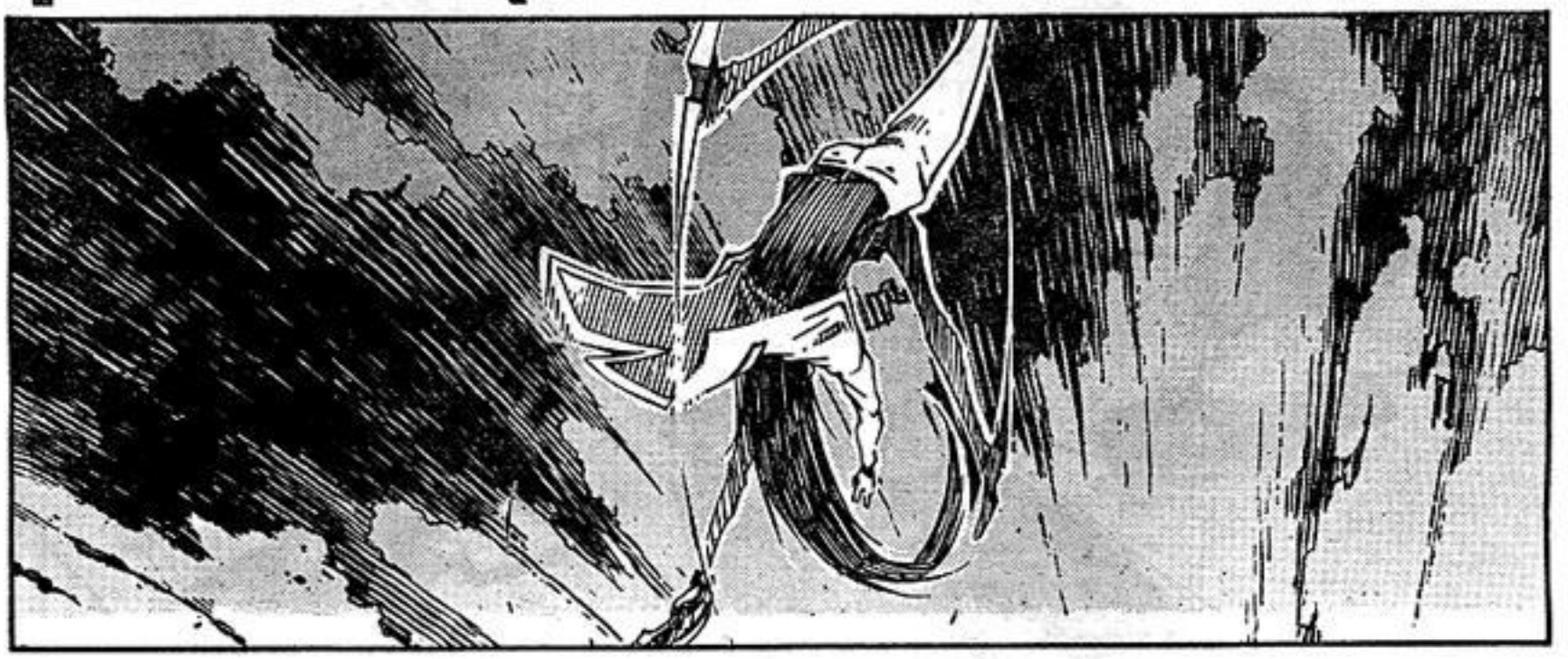


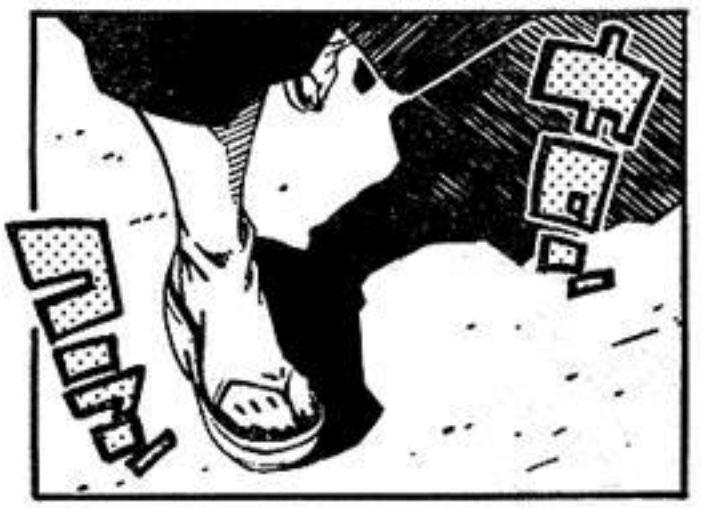
10





零崎双識の人間試験（ゼロサキソウシキ） 単行本1巻12月22日発売!!











IN THE PROCESS OF INVITING IORI-SAN INTO THE ZEROZAKI FAMILY

THAT'S WHAT THIS WAS JUST NOW, WASN'T IT?

!?

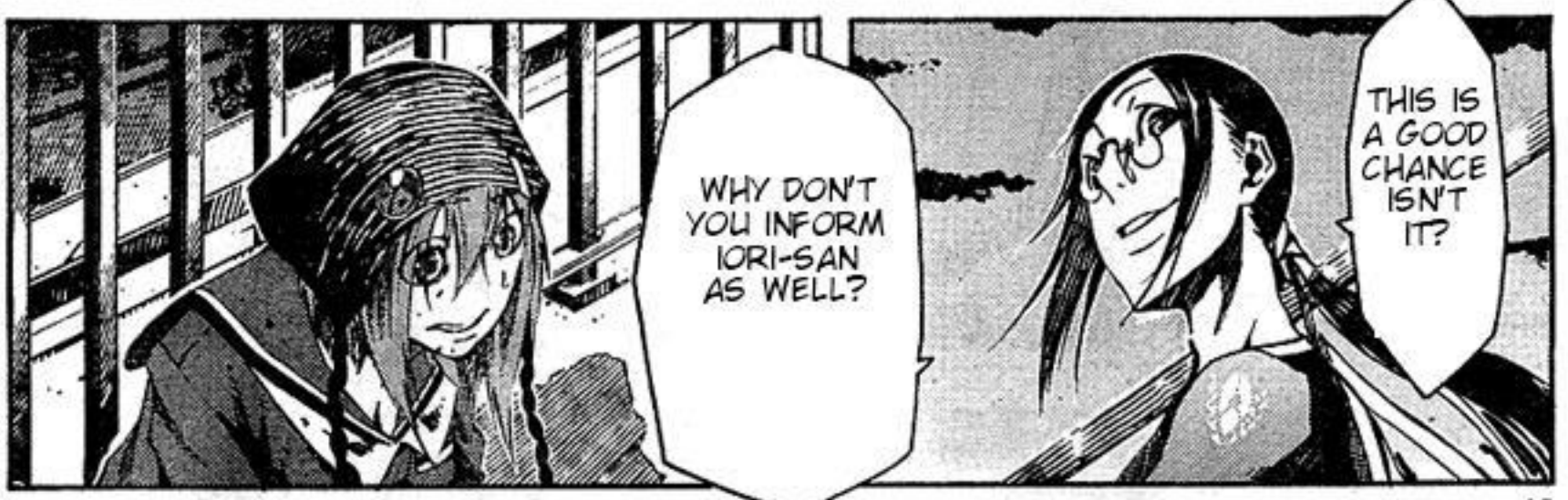
12

ZERO-ZAKI

FAM-ILY

零崎双識の人間試験


JUST WHAT IS A ZERO-ZAKI...?
THAT TIME TOO
AT THAT TIME
THAT AGAIN


WHY DON'T YOU INFORM IORI-SAN AS WELL?
THIS IS A GOOD CHANCE ISN'T IT?


AH
YES!
IORI-CHAN
THE "ZEROZAKI" ARE YOU SEE..


.....

A GROUP OF CUTT-THROAT MURDER-ERS

A FAMILY OF CUTT-THROAT MURDER-ERS, THAT IS

FA..

FAMILY OF CUTT-THROAT MURDERERS ...?

IN OTHER WORDS, THAT MEANS

YOU KILL PEOPLE AS A FAMILY?

!

IT ISN'T KILLING PEOPLE AS A FAMILY

IF THAT WAS THE CASE, THAT WOULD BE THE WORST

BUT IT'S THE OPPO-SITE OF THAT

OPPO-SITE../

YES

AHA AHA AHA!

!?

お題フリー欄外四季賞

知人の心の整え方。お茶を立てる。気持ちがすっとするらしいが、準備に手間がかかるので、つき合わされる方としては、しょっちゅうだとめんどくさい。

茨城県・たいらひとし(24)さ・社会人

BUT CUTT-THROAT MURDERERS WHO GATHERED TOGETHER AND MADE A FAMILY

WON'T YOU BECOME MY SISTER?

THAT'S WHAT HE MEANT BY THAT...?

DON'T KID WITH ME!

I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT ZEROZAKI OR FAMILIES OF CUTT-THROAT MURDERERS

BUT DO WHATEVER YOU WANT ON YOUR OWN, I'LL BE GOING BACK NOW

OH, IORI-SAN

THAT POSITION IS A BIT....





18







YOU'RE ALREADY-

LISTEN HERE IORI-SAN

.....

A MAGNIFICENTLY INVOLVED PARTY







お題フリー欄外四季賞

私の心の整え方は心を落ち着けるためのポーズを決めておくこと。自分は合掌することにしている。

岡山県・ｈｉｇｅ㈫☆・無職

零崎双識の人間試験

大人気御礼！
原作ノベルス
西尾維新『零崎双識の人間試験』
絶賛発売中！！
講談社ノベルス
定価：1365円(税込)

MANIPUL-
ATED
AS PUPPETS

PUP-
PETS?

ABOUT
THAT

21

WHAT
HE
MEANS
IS

THE
OWNERS
OF THESE
FRESHLY
SERVERED
HEADS,
YOUR FAMILY
AND
EVERYONE
ELSE

IORI-
CHAN

97

WERE BRAIN-WASHED

TO PUT IT SIMPLY

BRAIN.. WASHING..

NO

!?

IT'S IMPOS-SIBLE

THE..THEN, IF YOU REMOVE THE BRAIN-WASHING

EVERYONE WOULDN'T HAVE HAD TO DIE THEN RIGHT?

PUPPET MASTER

THAT SEEMS TO BE WHAT IT IS CALLED

IT SEEMS TO BE A TECHNIQUE THAT LITERALLY DESTROYS THEIR SENSE OF VALUES, LOGIC, PRESERVATION AND COMMON SENSE

MAKING THEM INTO MARRION-ETTES

THE MOMENT THEY WERE MADE INTO THOSE PUPPETS

YOU LOST THOSE IMPORTANT TO YOU

お題フリー欄外四季賞

私は夜中にひとりでしゃべる、エアディベートをして心を整えます。テレビでも新聞でも日常の出来事でも、何か思ったら夜中に。実家だが、2階にひとりで住んでいるアドバンテージをいかして、まわりに聞こえない声で意見をえんえんと。だいたい途中で疲れてぐっすり眠れます。

新潟県・ぐろまぐろ㈶さ・社会人











EVEN IF THEY WEREN'T PUPPETS

YOU WOULD HAVE STILL KILLED THEM

HEH HEH

I TOO SYMPATHIZE WITH THEM YOU SEE

BUT

25

KILLING OR NOT KILLING THEM IS ANOTHER ISSUE

.....

THE ZEROZAKI REALLY ARE...


.....

26


SPEAKING OF WHICH YOU DON'T SEEM LIKE YOU'RE A PUPPET
LET'S
HEAR YOUR NAME FOR THE TIME BEING


ヒュ
ダッ

102


WICK-
ED

THIRD SIBLING OF THE SAWARABI AND SECOND SON

HALBERD USER SAWARABI NAGUMA

PLEASED TO MEET YOU

CUTTHROAT MURDERER GROUP

ZEROZAKI FAMILY

SAWA-RABI..

SAWA RABI IS IT?

A BRANCE FAMILY OF THE NIOUNOMIYA HITMEN I BELIEVE

BUT I DONT GET IT

IF YOU REALLY ARE A HITMAN

WHY DO YOU USE SUCH UNREFINED THINGS SUCH AS PUPPETS TO OPPOSE A ZEROZKAI

EVEN IF YOU ARE JUST A BRANCH FAMILY, YOU CAN'T NOT KNOW THE TERROR OF THE ZEROZAKI

FAMILY MEMBERS,
WITHOUT SPECIAL
CHARACTERISTICS IN COMMON

FAMILY MEMBERS,
WITHOUT RULES TO OBEY

FAMILY MEMBERS,
WITHOUT TABOOS THAT
MUSTN'T BE VIOLATED

ONLY ONE THING IS FOR SURE.

THOSE WHO MAKE ENEMIES OF
THE FAMILY ARE-----

ANNIHILATED

.....

OF COURSE I KNOW

MY YOUNGER SISTER WAS----

!!

30

.....

OH
...

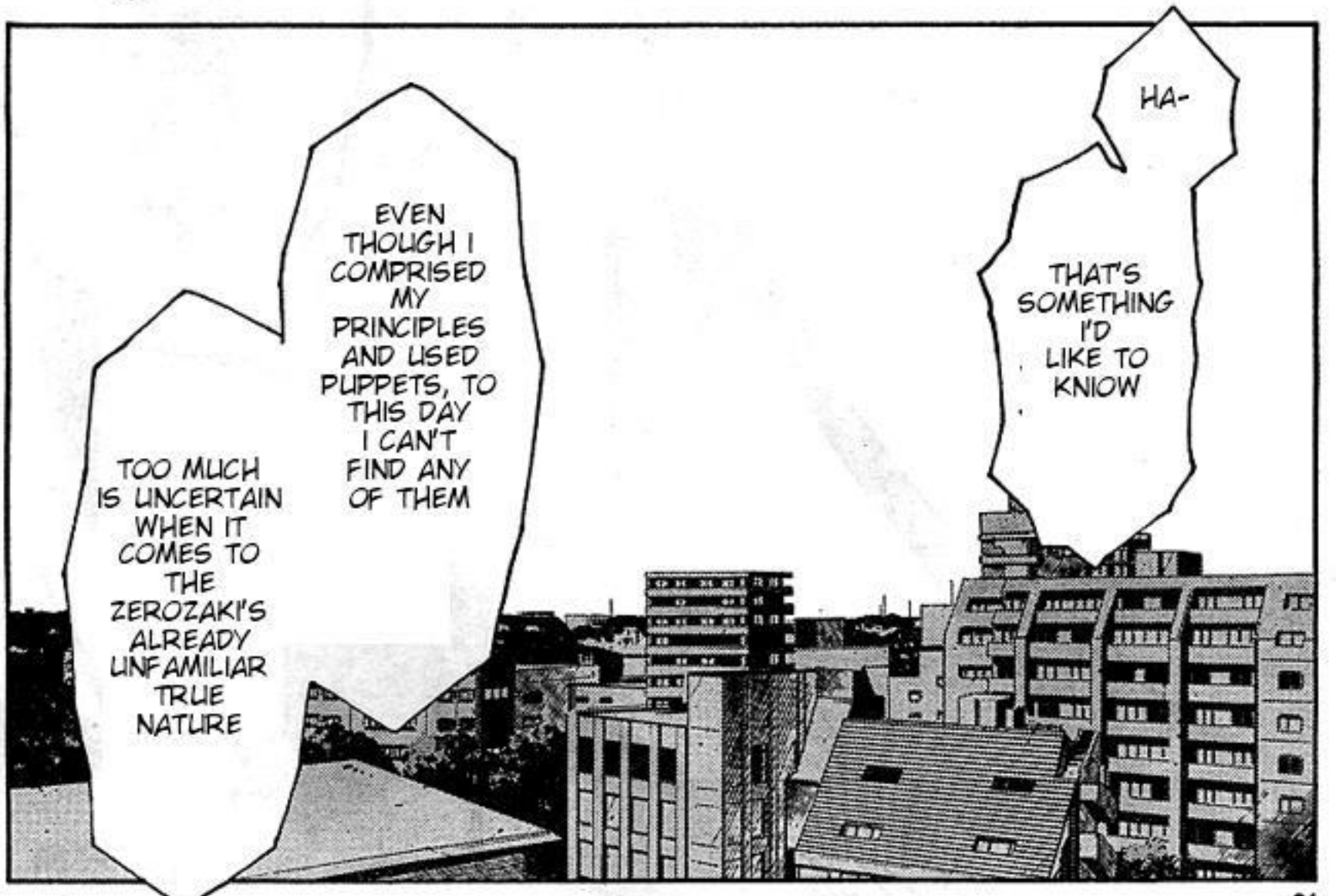
KILLED BY THE ZERO-ZAKI

106

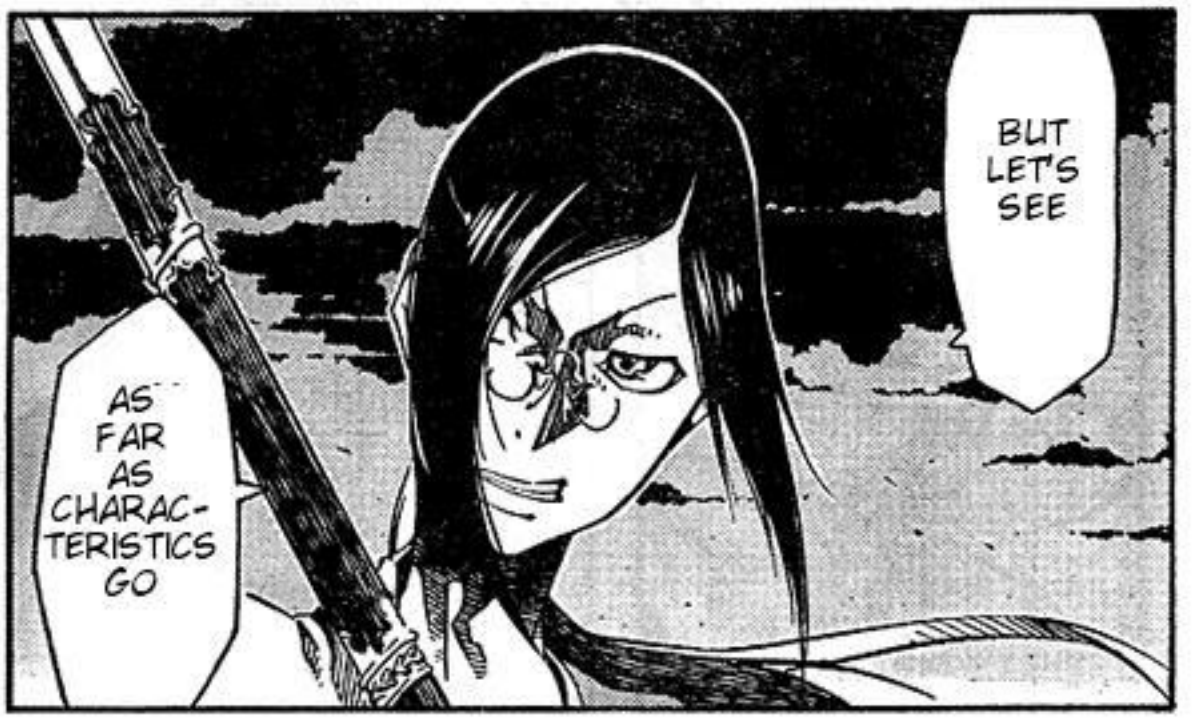
零崎双識の人間試験

原作ノベルスが待望の文庫化！ 講談社文庫『零崎双識の人間試験』12月15日発売予定！ 講談社文庫 価格未定









A LARGE TATTOO

A CUTTTHROAT MURDER-ER WITH A TATTOO ON HIS FACE...

I SEE..

THIS SIT-UATION

MY LITTLE BROTHER'S CARELESS-NESS IS IT

THAT BRAT

SAWA BARI.... NAGUMA-KUN.

?

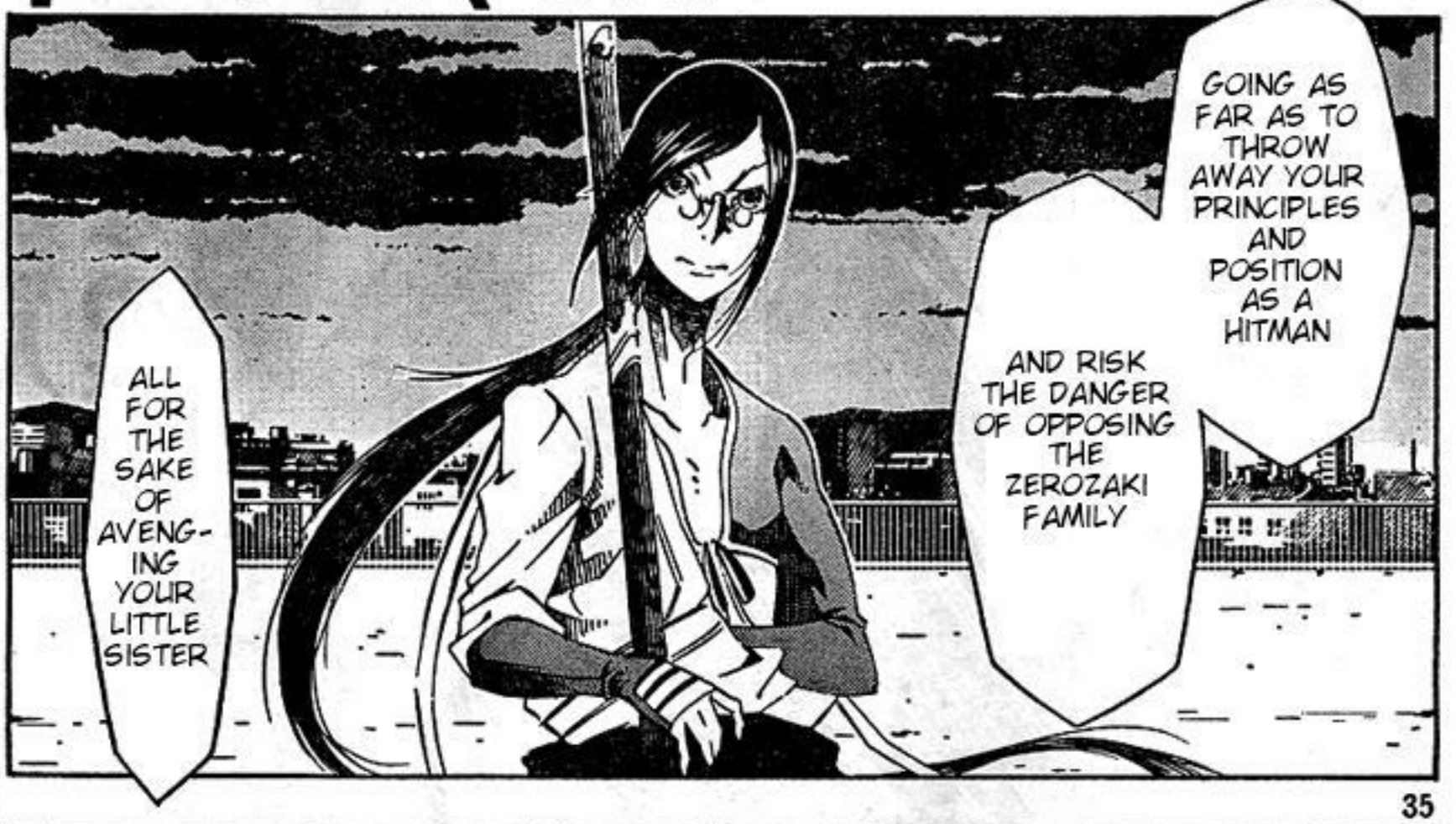
34

YOU'RE WONDER-FUL YOU KNOW

LET AN ENEMY SURVIVE DID HE ...!

110

零崎双識の人間試験



35











111

西尾維新の〈物語〉シリーズ最新作！『恋物語』12月22日発売！
講談社BOX
予価：1365円(税込)

CUT-THROAT MURDER-ERS

FOR YOU PEOPLE WHO KILL OR DON'T KILL BASED ON CIRCUM-STANCES

LET ALONE THROW AWAY YOUR PRINCIPLES

WE HAVE EXISTED IN DIFFERENT DIMENSIONS FROM THE BEGINNING

TO YOU KILLING MIGHT BE A JOB

BUT TO US ZEROZAKI KILLING IS A...


A WAY OF LIFE

お題フリー欄外四季賞

私のリラックスタイムは「おフロ」です。「マグマオンセン」という入浴剤入りのおフロでゆっくり半身浴、気持ちいいです。

愛媛県・KAZUU(50)♀・社会人



38





114

零崎双識の人間試験（ゼロザキソウシキ）

『非実在推理少女あ～や❶』シオミヤイル

原作／錦メガネ

絶賛発売中！

発行：星海社
定価：630円（税込）





お題フリー欄外 四季賞

私の心の整え方。軽い場合はソプラノ・リコーダーを抱きしめ、重い場合はアルト・リコーダーを抱きしめます。吹いたりしません。

愛知県・三河屋(31)♀・社会人

THAT'S WHY WITHOUT A DOBUT

AT THE VERY LEAST NOT RIGHT NOW...

MY REAL OLDER BROTHER

ぎゅっと

I MUST NOT
RUN AWAY
FROM HERE

お題フリー欄外四季賞

レモンを入れた水を飲むとリラックスします。





44





120

山口県・たねいち㈱♀・エロ漫画家

NAG-
UMA-
KUN

I WIL
PAY YOU
THE
GREATEST
RESPECT

45

AND
FIGHT
YOU
SERIOUSLY

WELL
THEN

121



人間試験 第3問 了 次号２月号へ続く

話題集中4話目!!

漫画　原作

西尾維新（にしおいしん）

（講談社ノベルス『零崎双識の人間試験』より）

シオミヤイルカ

キャラクター原案　竹（かば）

零崎双識の人間試験

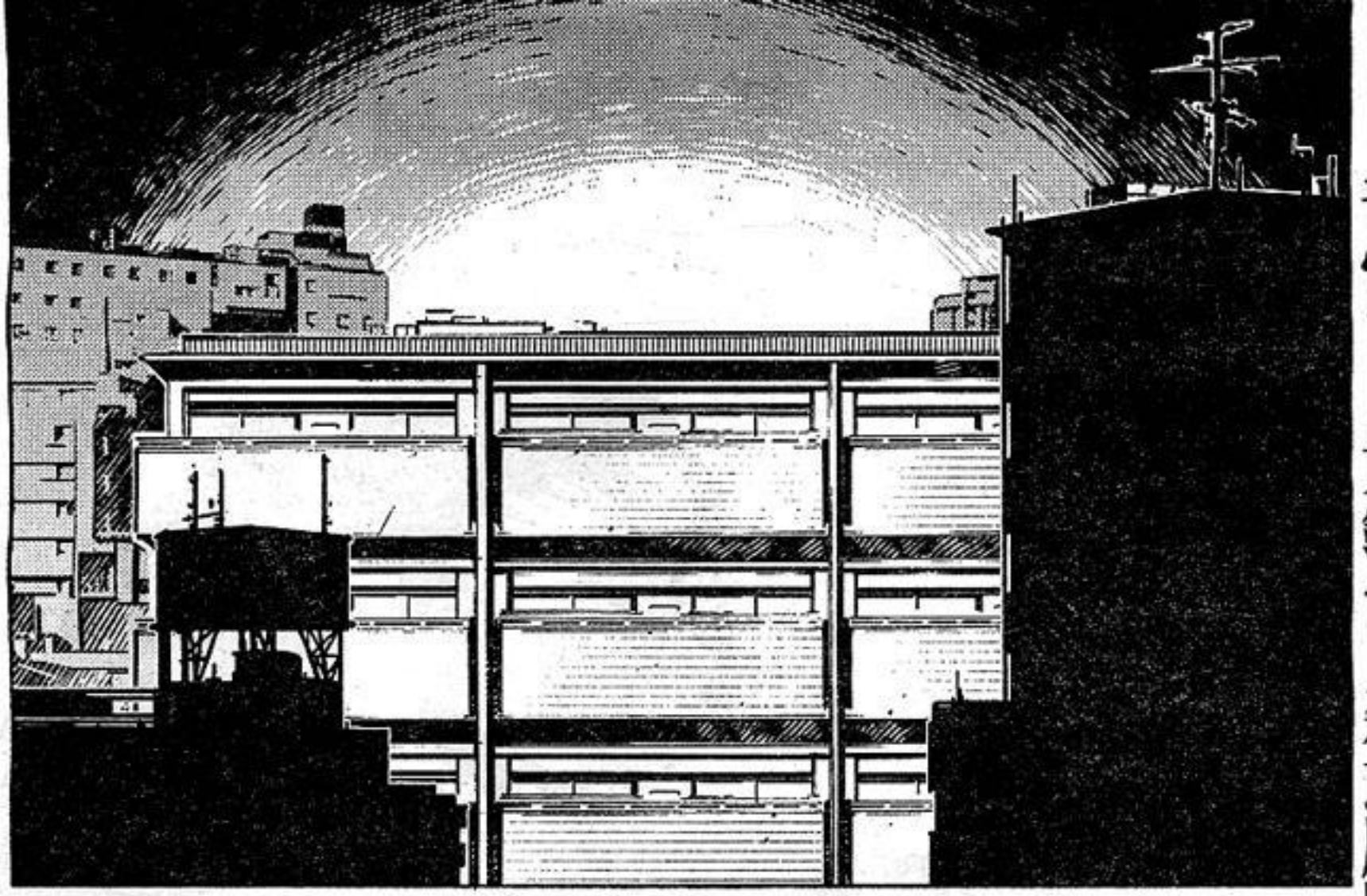
（ゼロザキソウシキ）

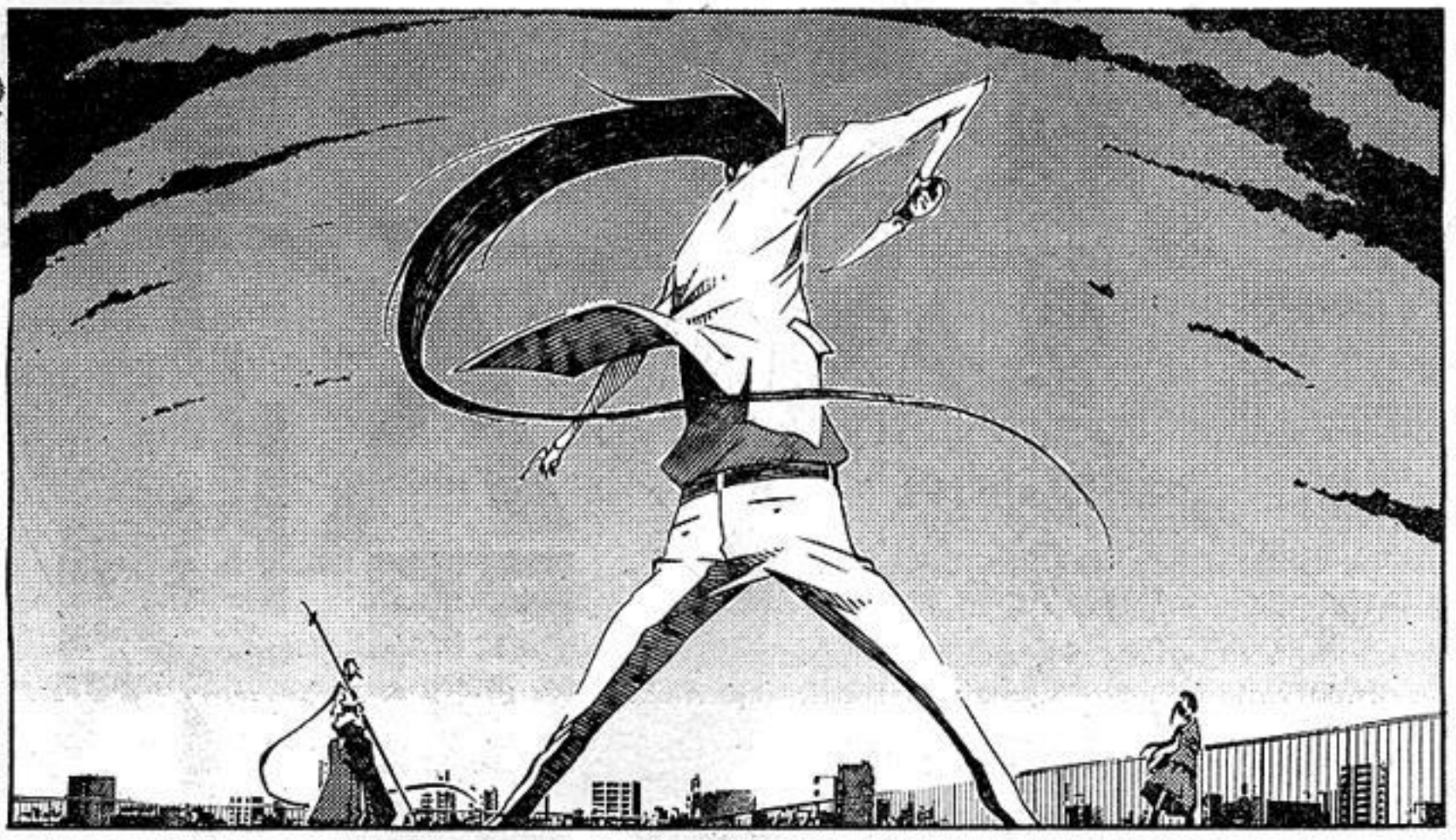
さあ語ろうか、悪の話を。

西尾維新 零崎 NISIOISIN フェア開催中!!!!
詳細は巻頭ポスターをCHECK
単行本1巻 通常版・特装版
どちらも絶賛発売中！

人間試験 第4問 始

奇怪なる大鋏（おおばさみ）。「自殺志願（マインドレンデル）」と呼ばれるその真の姿を「妹（伊織）」はまだ知らない。









この作品はフィクションです。実在の人物・団体などとは一切関係ありません。

TL - WCWTL.BLOGSPOT.COM

I THOUGHT IT WAS JUST SOME STATION-ARY

BUT IT LOOKS GOOD FOR THE MOST PART

BUT IT IS UNFORT-UNATE ISN'T IT

THAT THE SAWARABI BLADE ISN'T SOMETHING YOU CAN JUST STOP WITH ONE ARM

BUT ISN'T THIS WHAT THEY CALL TURNING THE TABLES...?

I...

I DON'T REALLY GET IT

4

THOSE KNIFES OF YOURS

I'LL CUT IT IN TWO WITH A SIGLE STROKE

HEH HEH

.....

5

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

PLAY CAREFUL ATTENTION TO YOUR WORDS AND ACTIONS NAGUMA-KUN

?

IT MEANS THE TEST HAS ALREADY STARTED

6

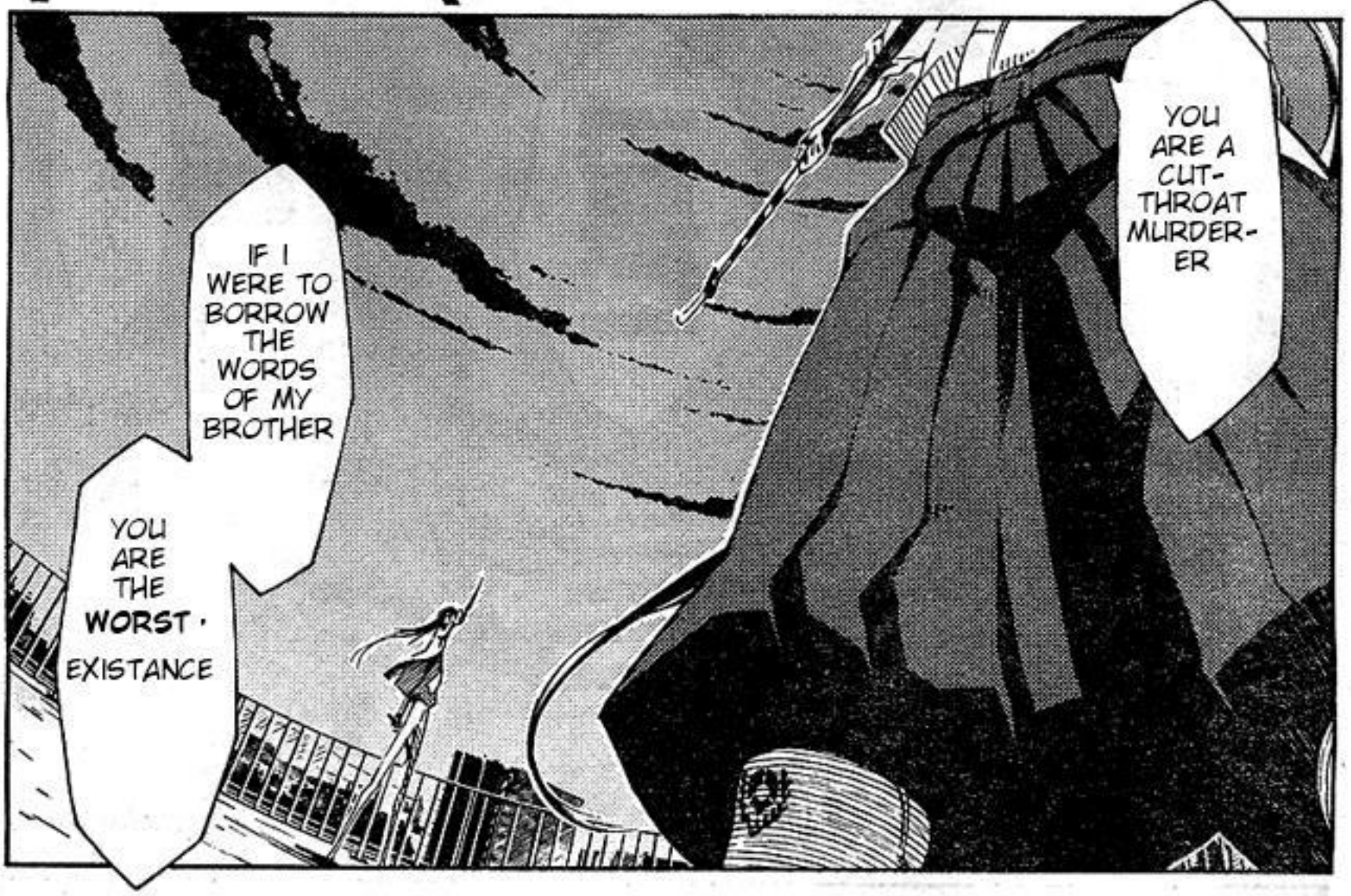
.....

OF ALL THE THINGS I THOUGHT HE'D TALK ABOUT

"TEST" HE SAYS ?

144

零崎双識の人間試験


YOU ARE A CUT-THROAT MURDER-ER
IF I WERE TO BORROW THE WORDS OF MY BROTHER
YOU ARE THE WORST · EXISTANCE


SAY YOU TEST PEOPLE?

7


WORST IS IT
THAT'S QUITE INSIGHT-FUL REALLY



EVIL

WELL THEN NAGUMA KUN

TO START OFF, WHAT DO YOU THINK IT IS?

FOR ME

THAT'S WHAT I THINK

WHEN PEOPLE DIE SOME SORT OF **EVIL** IS DEFINITELY THERE

8

EVIL ...

THIS EXISTENCE KILLS PEOPLE

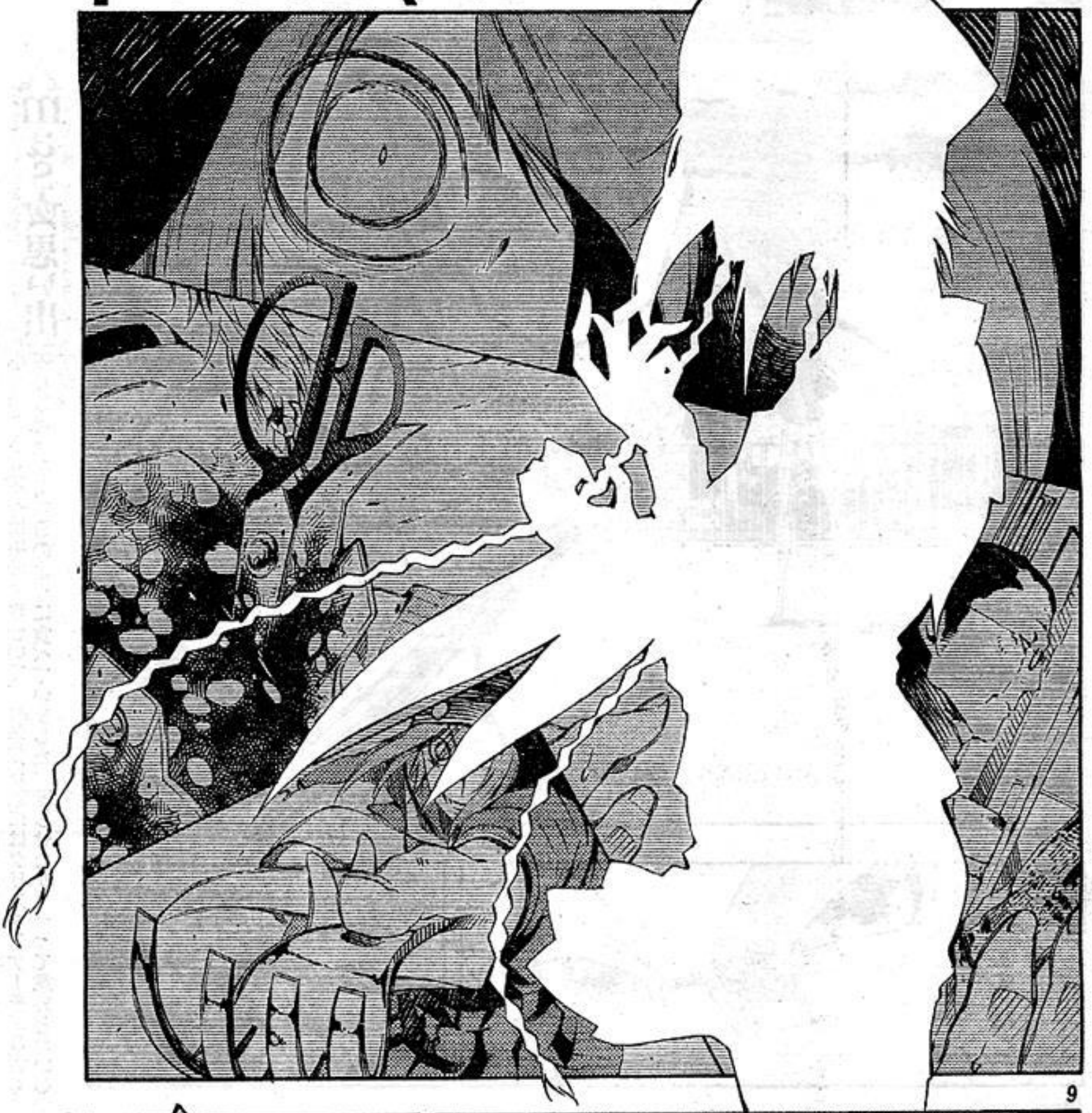
OR TO PUT IT ANOTHER WAY **EVIL** IS A NOTION THAT KILLS PEOPLE

Xmasの思い出

本物のサンタさんに手紙を出すと返事が来るというので、娘に書かせてみた。2年越しに返事が来た。サンタさんは売れっ子らしいが律儀だ。

千葉県・めろんぱん㉘♀・社会人

零崎双識の人間試験



9





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WOULDN'T THE ZEROZAKI CUTTHROAT MURDERS THEMSELVES BE "EVIL"?

THAT IS TRUE

……

10

BECAUSE I AM THE "WORST" EXISTENCE

AND AS THE MOST EXTREME EXISTENCE AMONG THE ZEROZAKI, THE "WORST"

Xmasの思い出

小さいころ、親の仕事の付き合いで、毎年我が家にはクリスマスケーキが3個ぐらいありました。さすがに食べきれないので残りは冷凍して毎日のように食べていましたが。凍らせたケーキって意外とおいしいんですよー。ただしバタークリーム限定です。

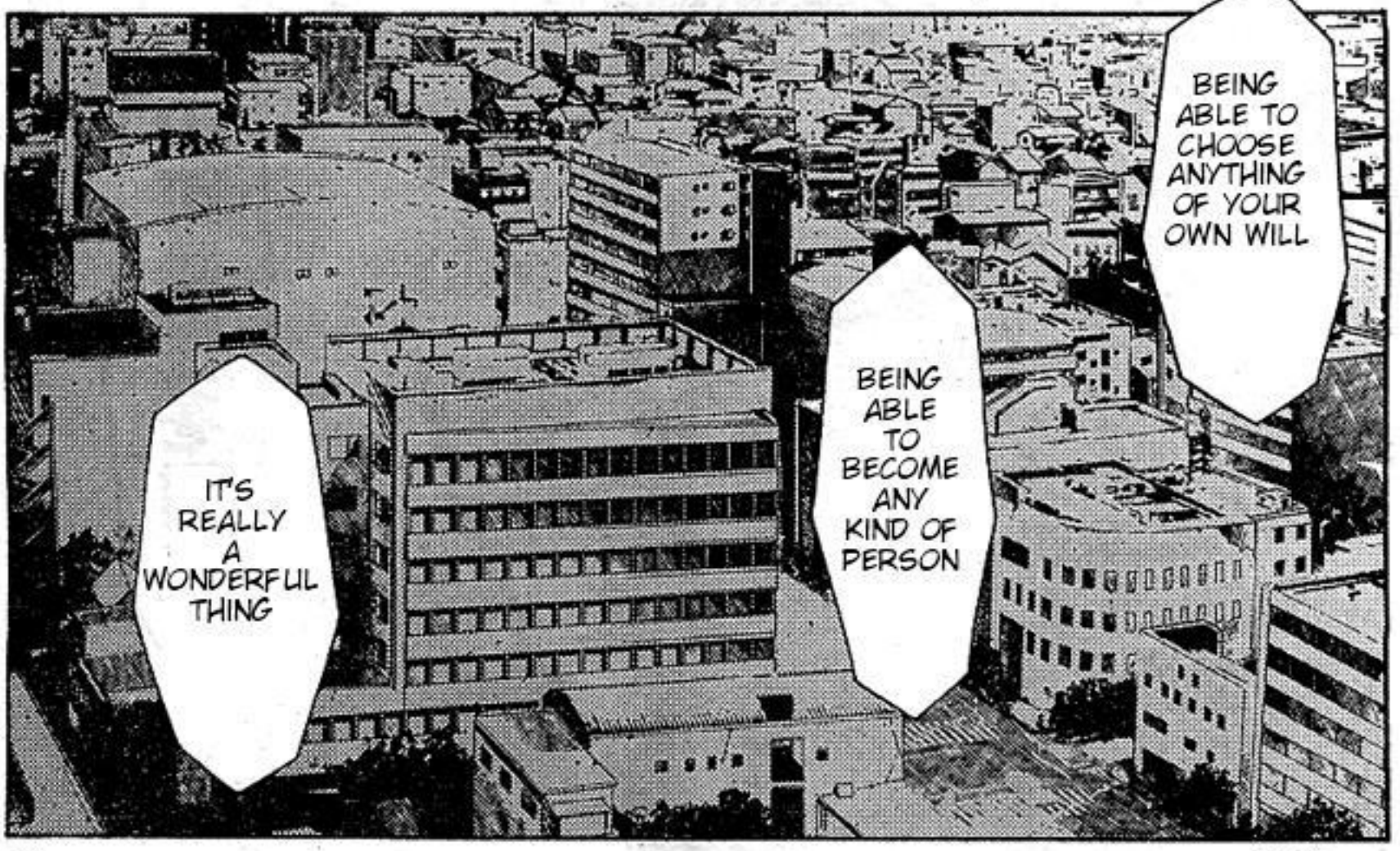
山口県・ニューセリ(46)さ・社会人

I BELIEVE IN THE POSSIB-ILITIES IN PEOPLE

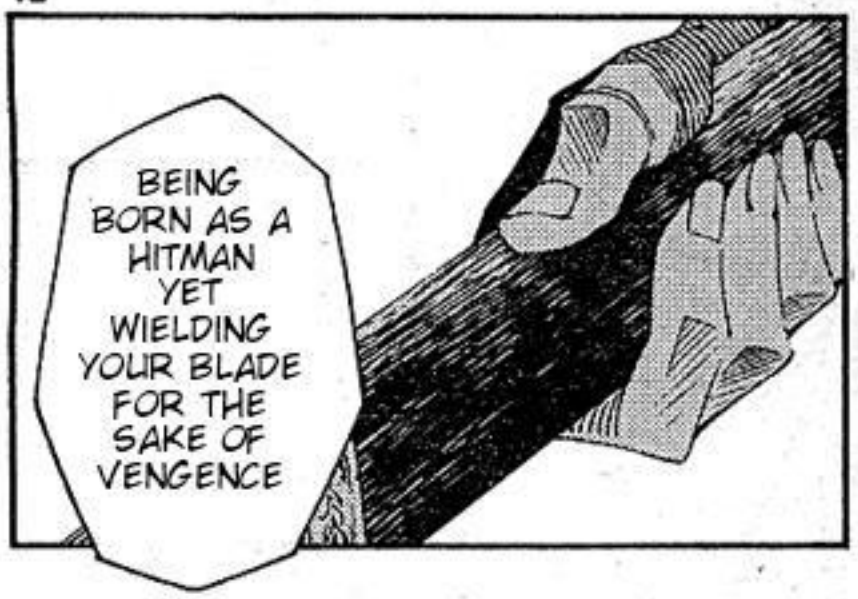
AND I SEEK THOSE OUT IN OTHERS

THAT MEANS HAVING INFINITE CHOICES

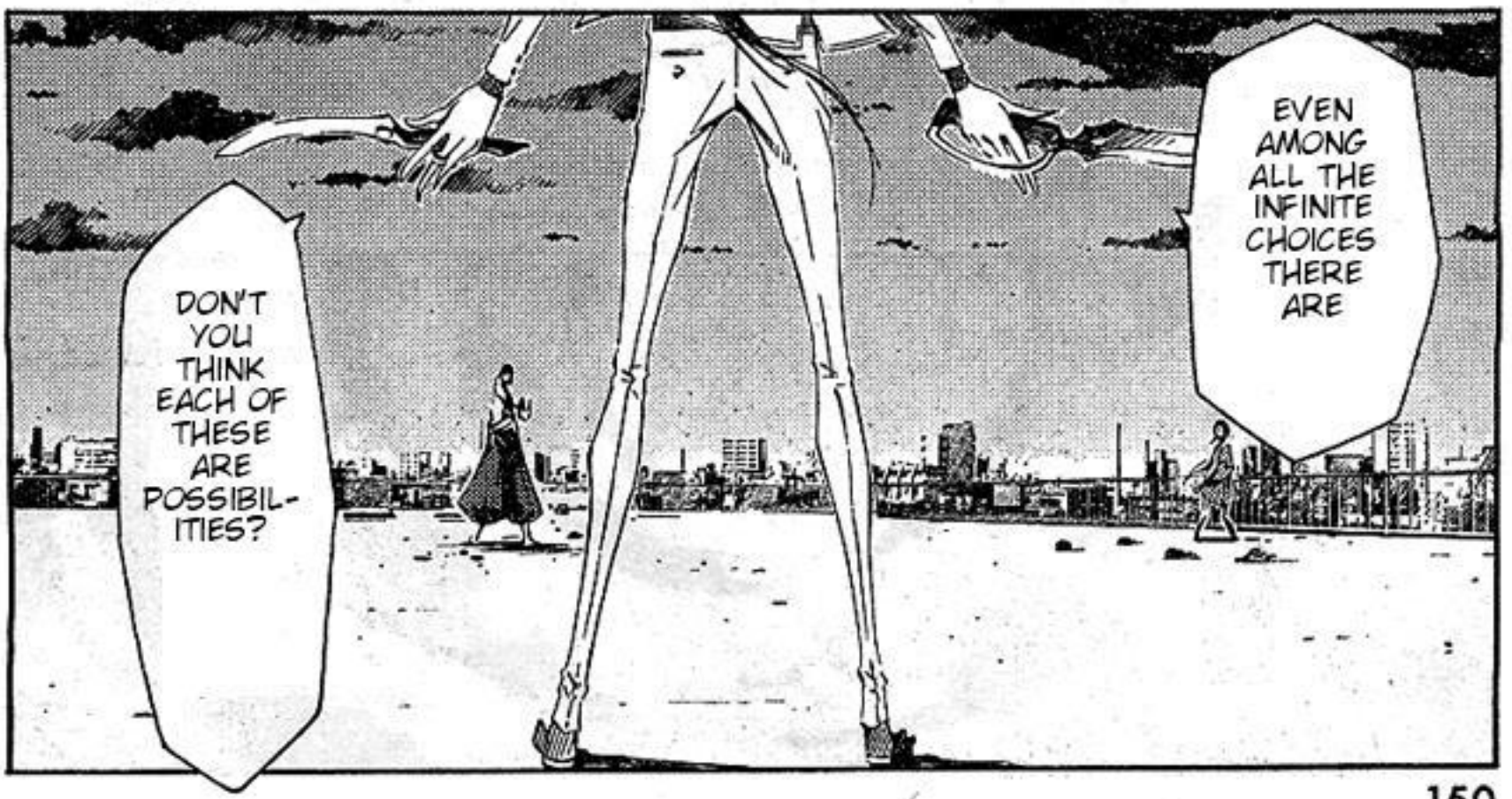
POSS-IBILIT-IES ...


BEING ABLE TO CHOOSE ANYTHING OF YOUR OWN WILL
BEING ABLE TO BECOME ANY KIND OF PERSON
IT'S REALLY A WONDERFUL THING

12


BEING BORN AS A HITMAN YET WIELDING YOUR BLADE FOR THE SAKE OF VENGENCE


BEING BORN A CUTTHROAT MURDERER YET LIVING LIFE WITHOUT KILLING PEOPLE


EVEN AMONG ALL THE INFINITE CHOICES THERE ARE
DON'T YOU THINK EACH OF THESE ARE POSSIBIL-ITIES?

西尾維新の超人気ノベルス、突然漫画化！
悪と愛に彩られた青春活劇、ここに開幕!!



AFTER NOON アフターヌーン KC

最新刊

零崎双識の人間試験 1

漫画・シオミヤイルカ
原作・西尾維新

絶賛発売中!!

定価
600円
(税込)



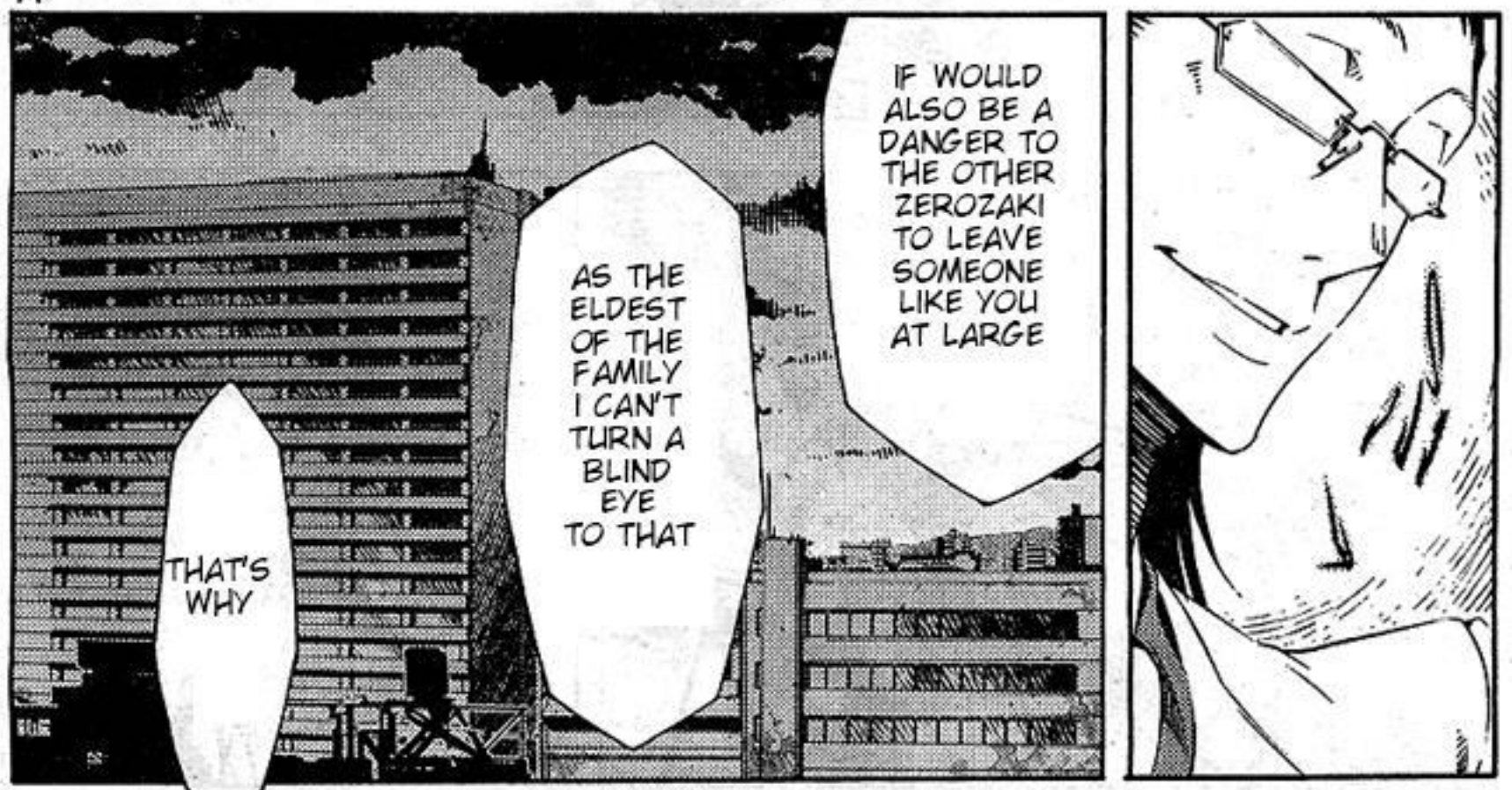





MAIN-LAENDER-SAN
YOUR LOGIC IS ALL OVER THE PLACE, I CAN'T UNDERSTAND YOU AT ALL


ANYWAYS IF I PASS THIS "TEST" YOU SPEAK OF
WILL YOU QUIETLY LET YOURSELF BE KILLED BY ME?

14


IF WOULD ALSO BE A DANGER TO THE OTHER ZEROZAKI TO LEAVE SOMEONE LIKE YOU AT LARGE
AS THE ELDEST OF THE FAMILY I CAN'T TURN A BLIND EYE TO THAT
THAT'S WHY

美麗ポストカードセットつき！
第1話カラーを完全再現!!



AFTER NOON
プレミアムKC
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零崎双識の人間試験❶
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原作・西尾維新
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1200円
(税込)









NO MATTER WHAT SIDE YOUR SLASH COMES FROM

I'LL STOP IT WITH ONE OF THESE

AND AT YOUR THROAT ...

16

I'LL THROW THE OTHER

AND THAT WILL BE THE END

THAT'S ALL THERE IS TO IT

ONLY KILLING

JUST A WHILE AGO YOU SAID I COULDN'T STOP YOU WITH ONE ARM

BUT IT'S NOT A MATTER OF CAN OR CAN'T

I WILL

17

AFTER HAVING STARTED THE ZEROZAKI, ALL THAT FOLLOWS IS

YOU'RE TIRED OF MY TALK ALREADY I'M SURE

WELL THEN SAWARABI NAGUMA-KUN

LET'S RESUME TRYING TO KILL EACHOTHER

原作ノベルスが待望の文庫化！
講談社文庫『零崎双識の人間試験』絶賛発売中！
講談社文庫
定価：800円(税込)



19



157

HE'S JUST PROVOKING ME...

.....

20

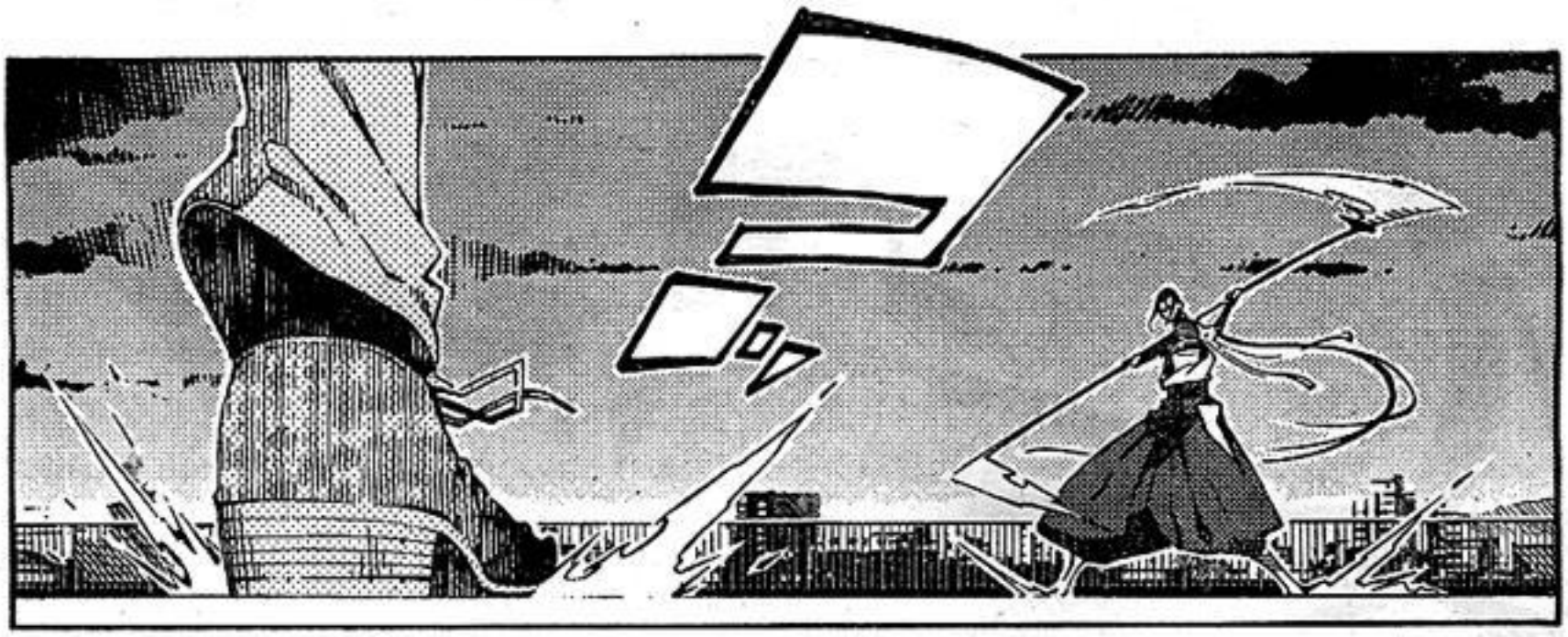
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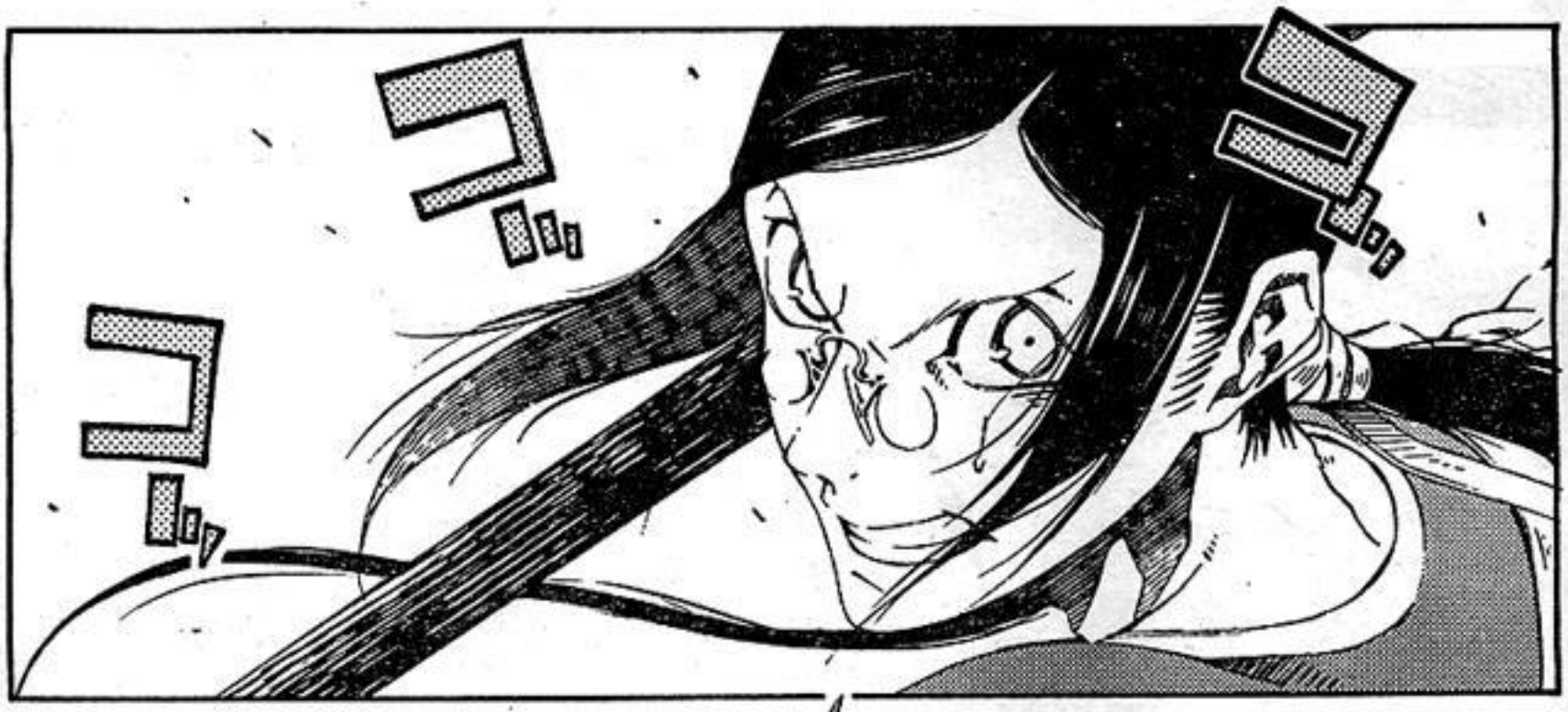
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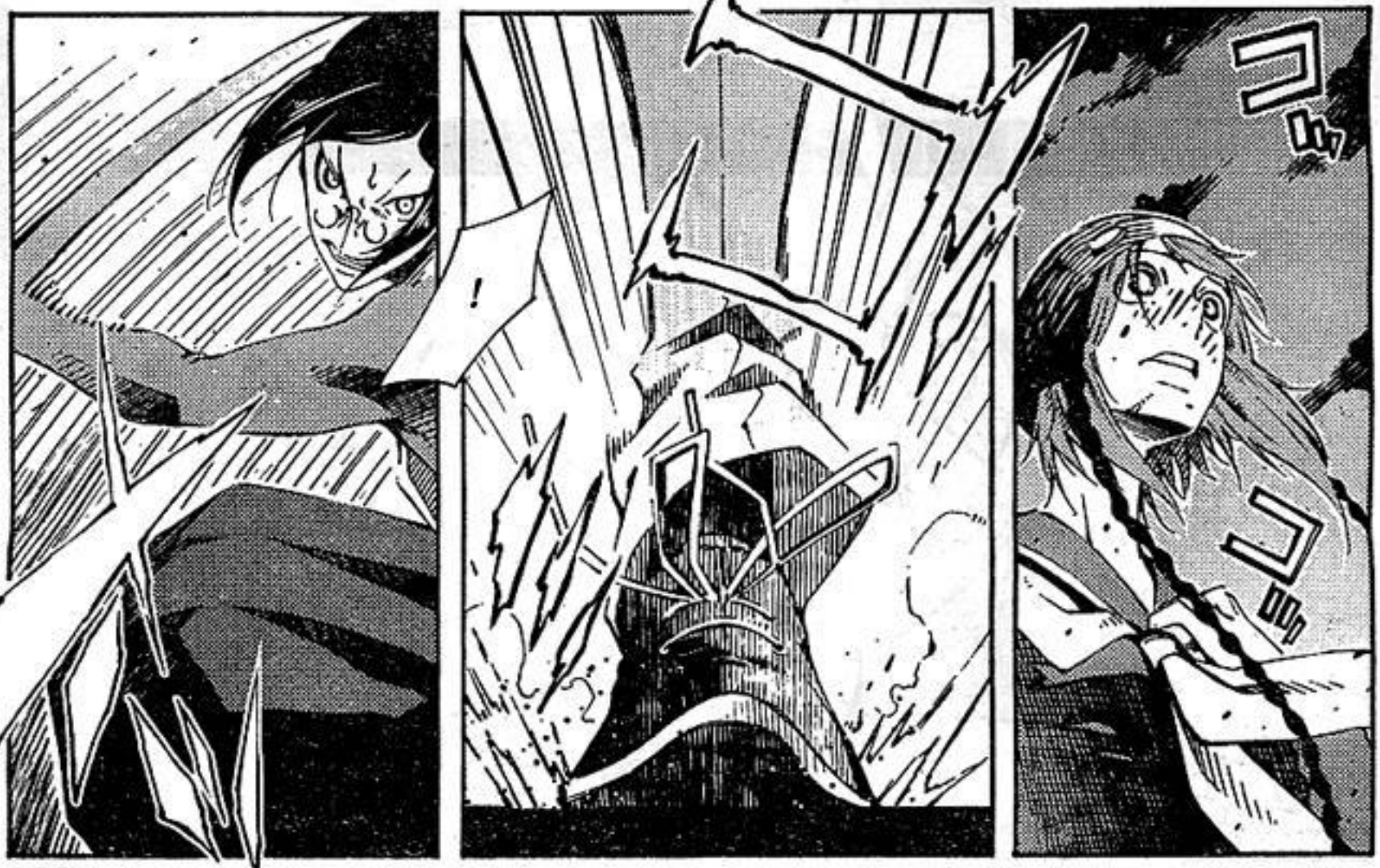
!?

AND MAKE HIM A SYMBOL OF MY REVENGE

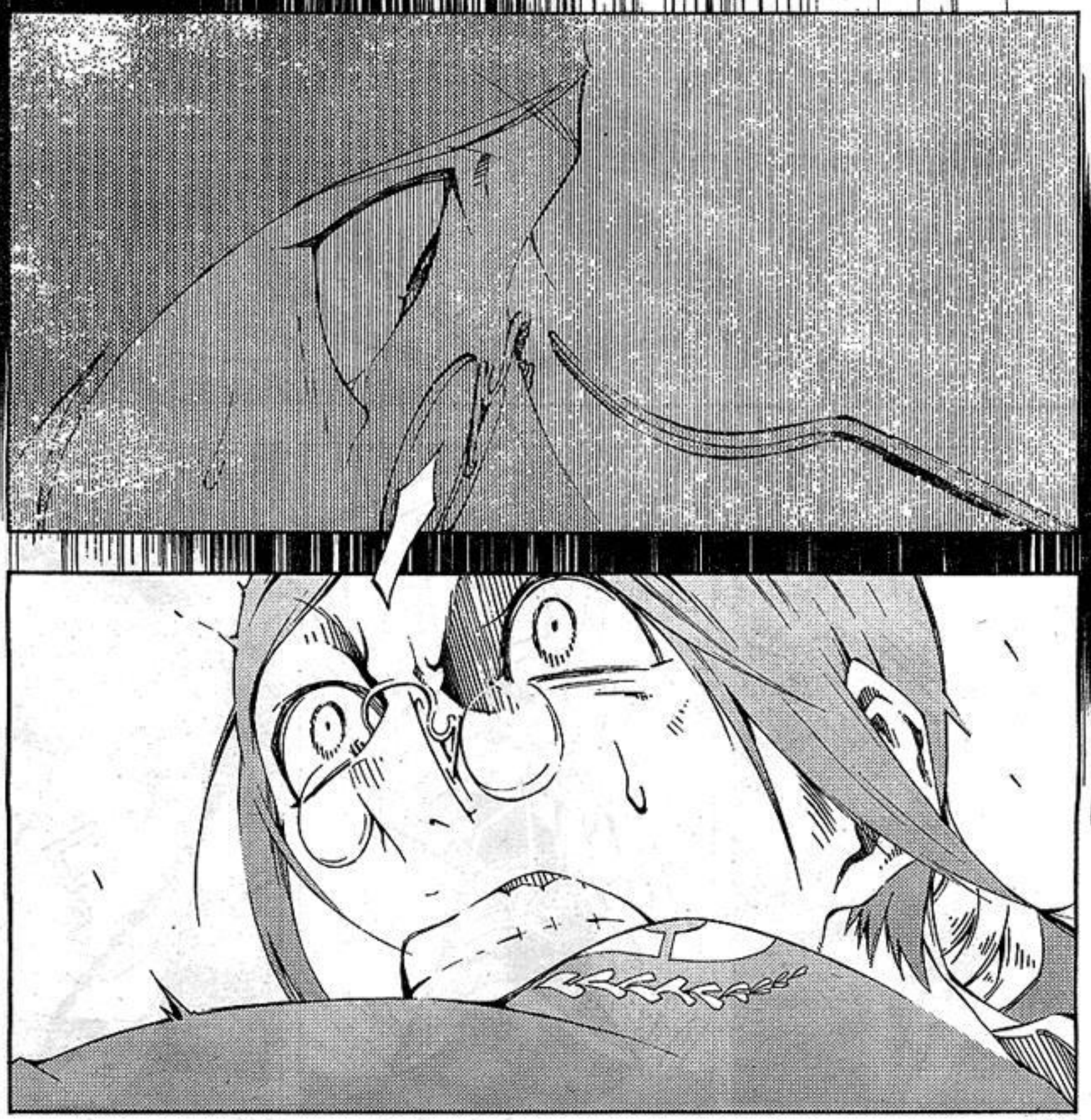
I'LL DESTORY MAIN-LAENDER RIGHT HERE RIGHT NOW











西尾維新の〈物語〉シリーズ最新作！
『恋物語』絶賛発売中！
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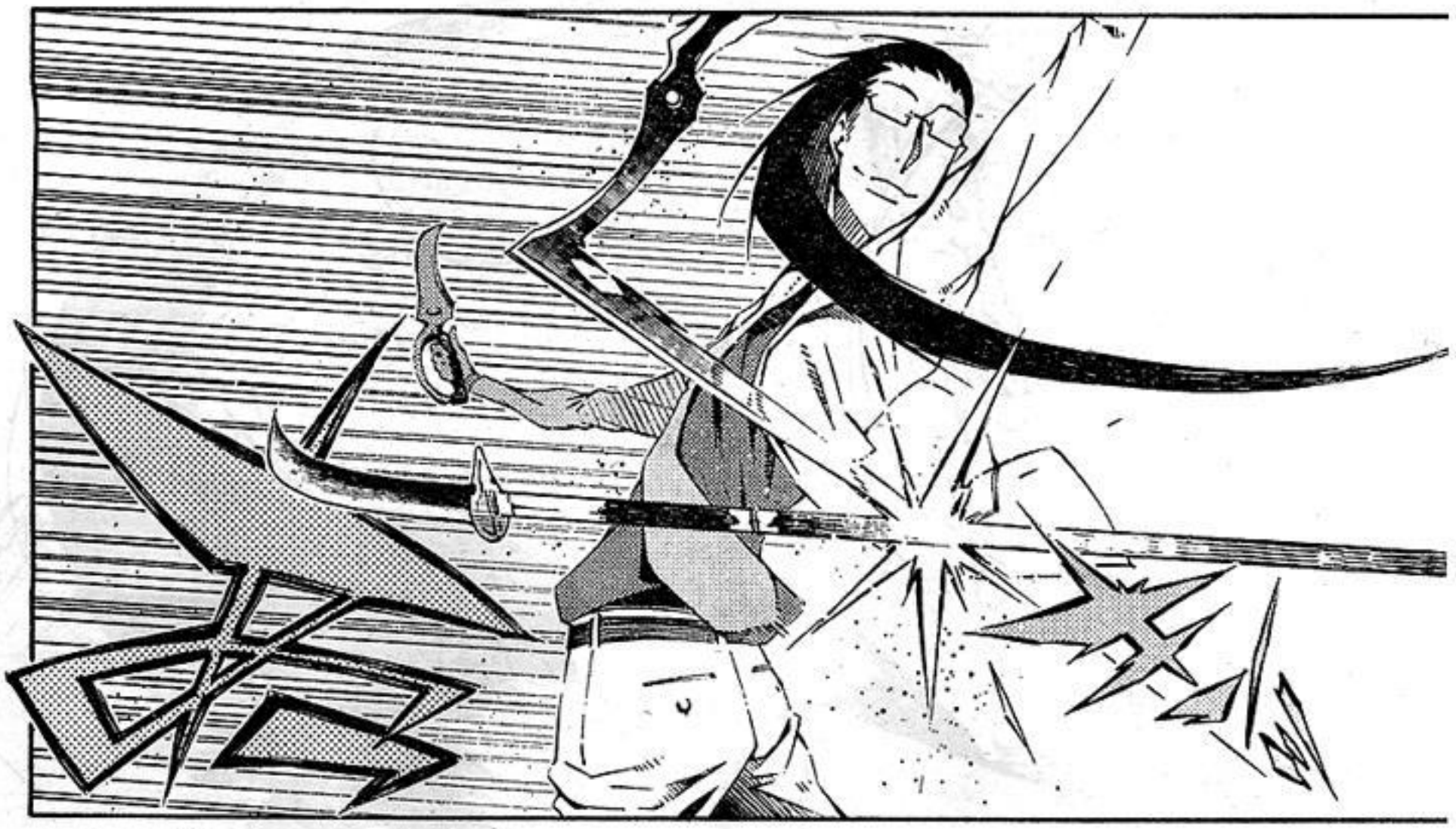


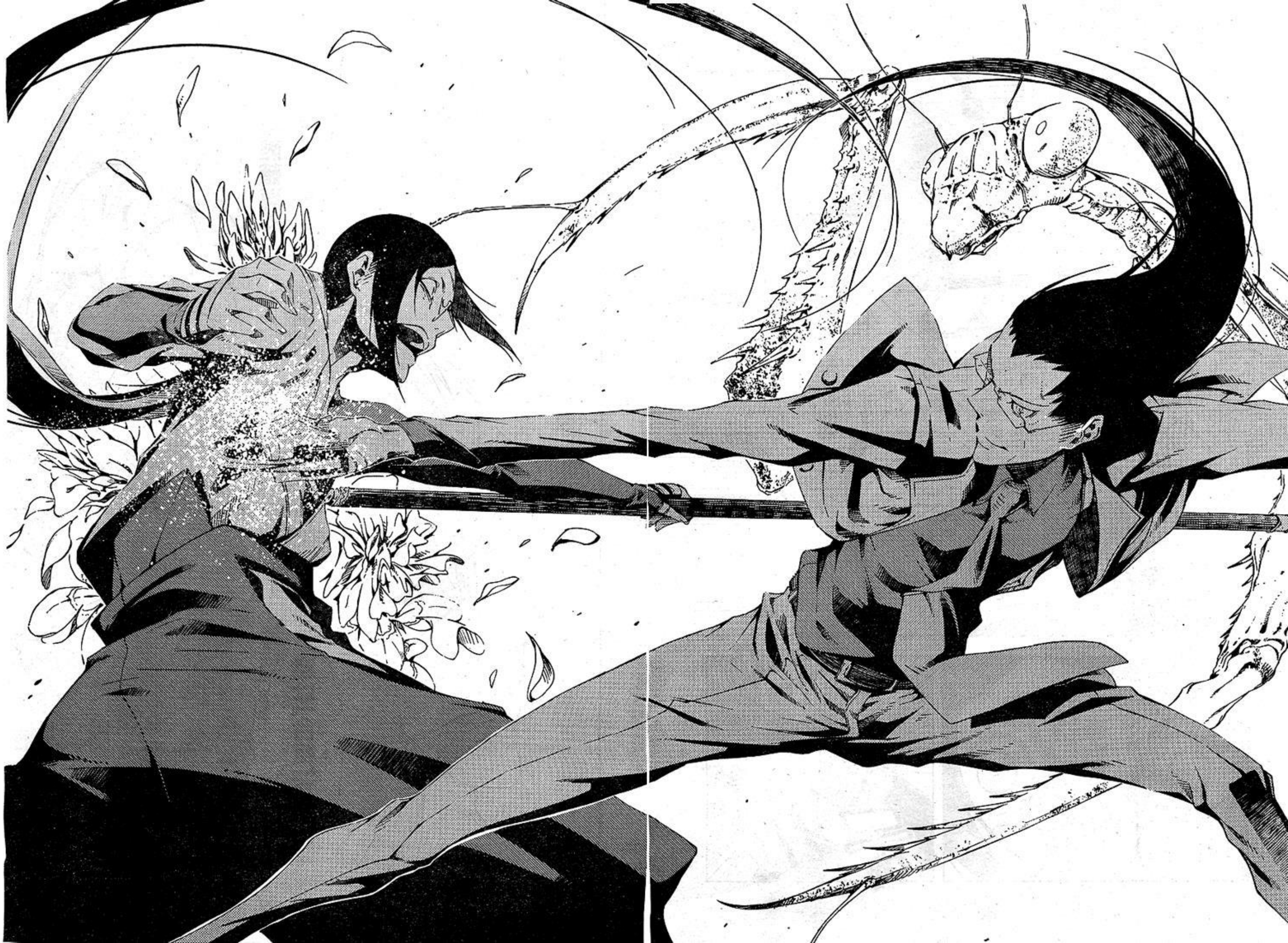


!!

OH NO

HE WASN'T AIMING FOR PROVOCATION OR A COUNTER FROM THE BEGINNING...


ALL I HAVE TO DO IS AVOID IT.
HE WAS AIMING FOR A FEINT
!!

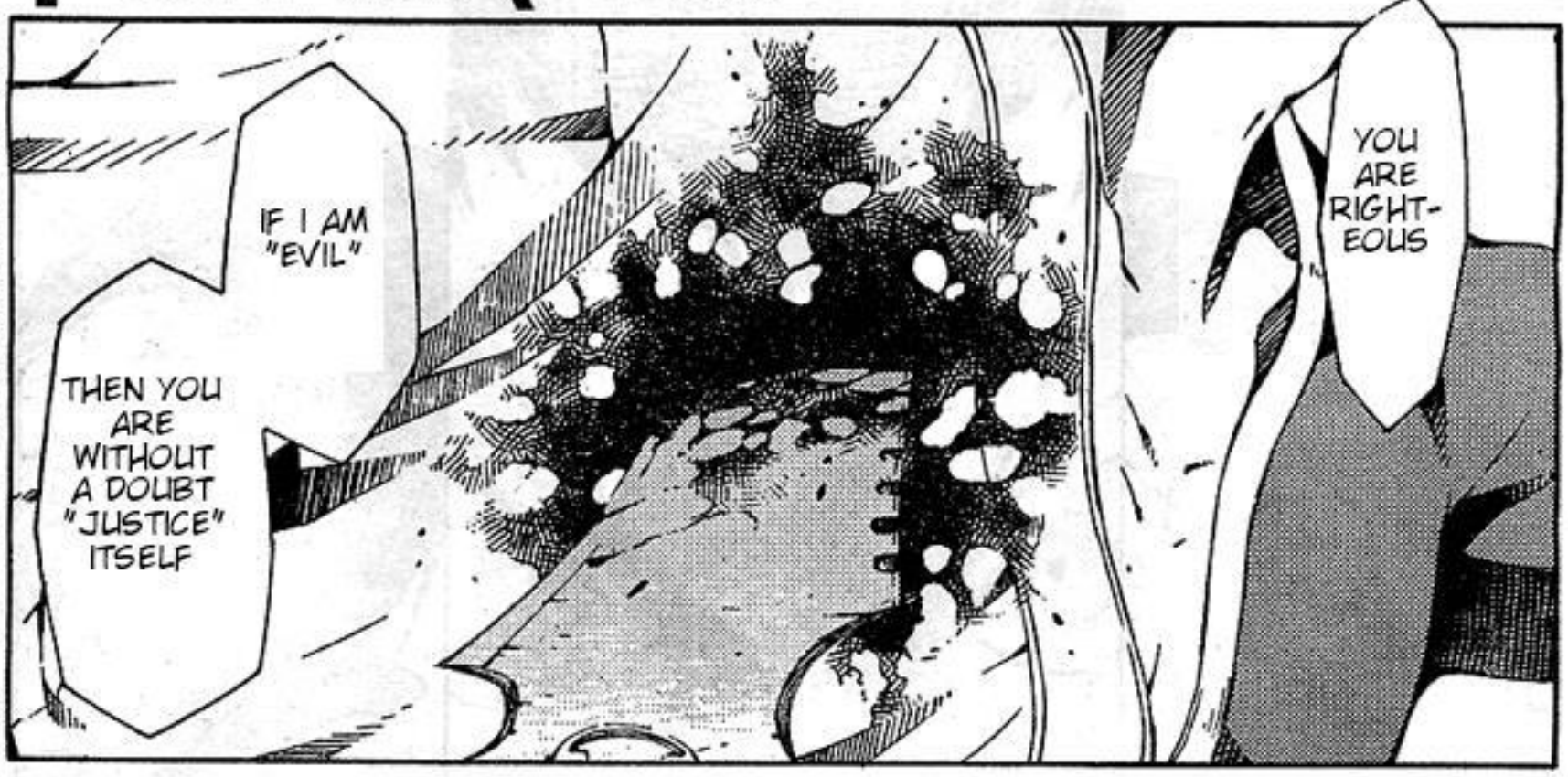


SAWA-
RABI
NAGUMA-
KUN

YOU
"PASS,"

零崎双識の人間試験

『非実在推理少女あ～や❶』シオミヤイルカ 原作／錦メガネ
絶賛発売中！
発行：星海社
定価：630円(税込)



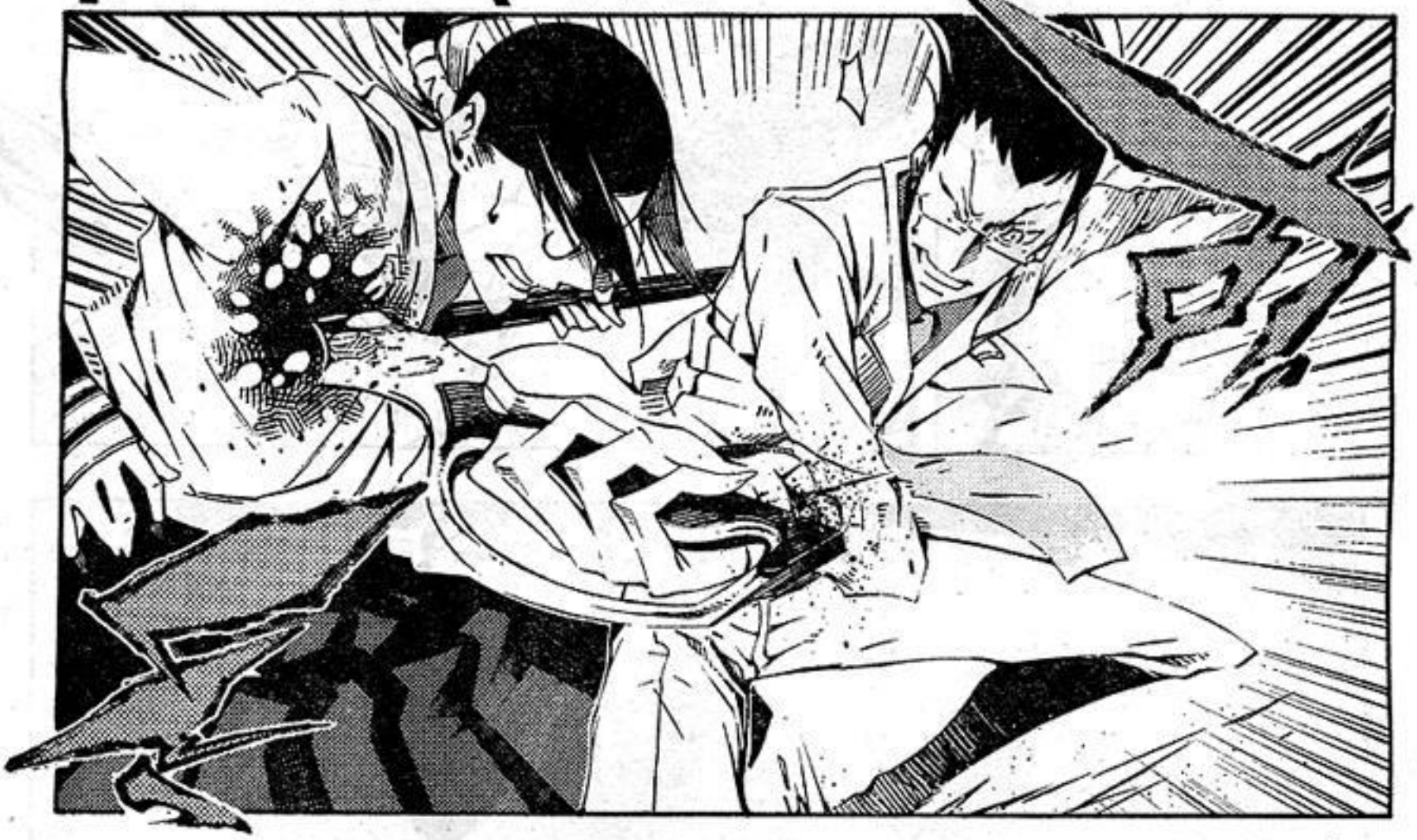






30

零崎双識の人間試験









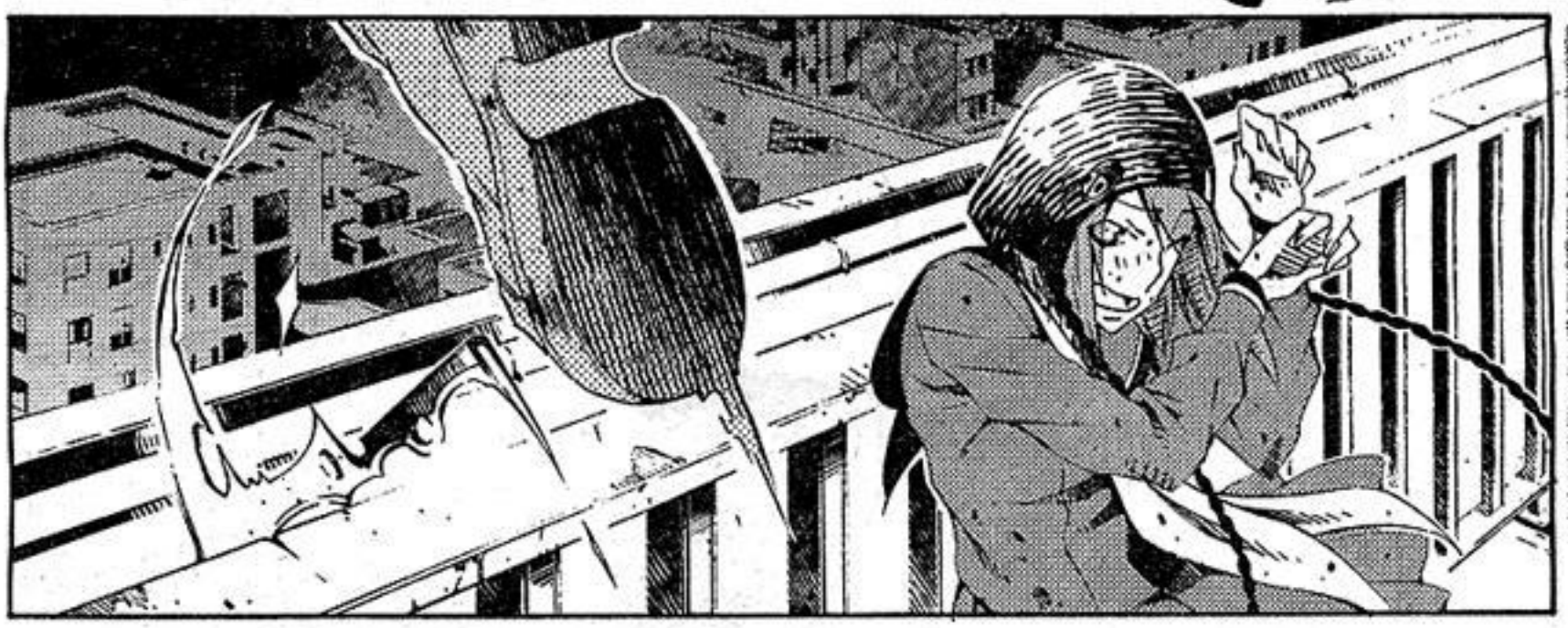



HUH
WHA-
WAI
PLEASE
DON'T
COME OVER
HERE

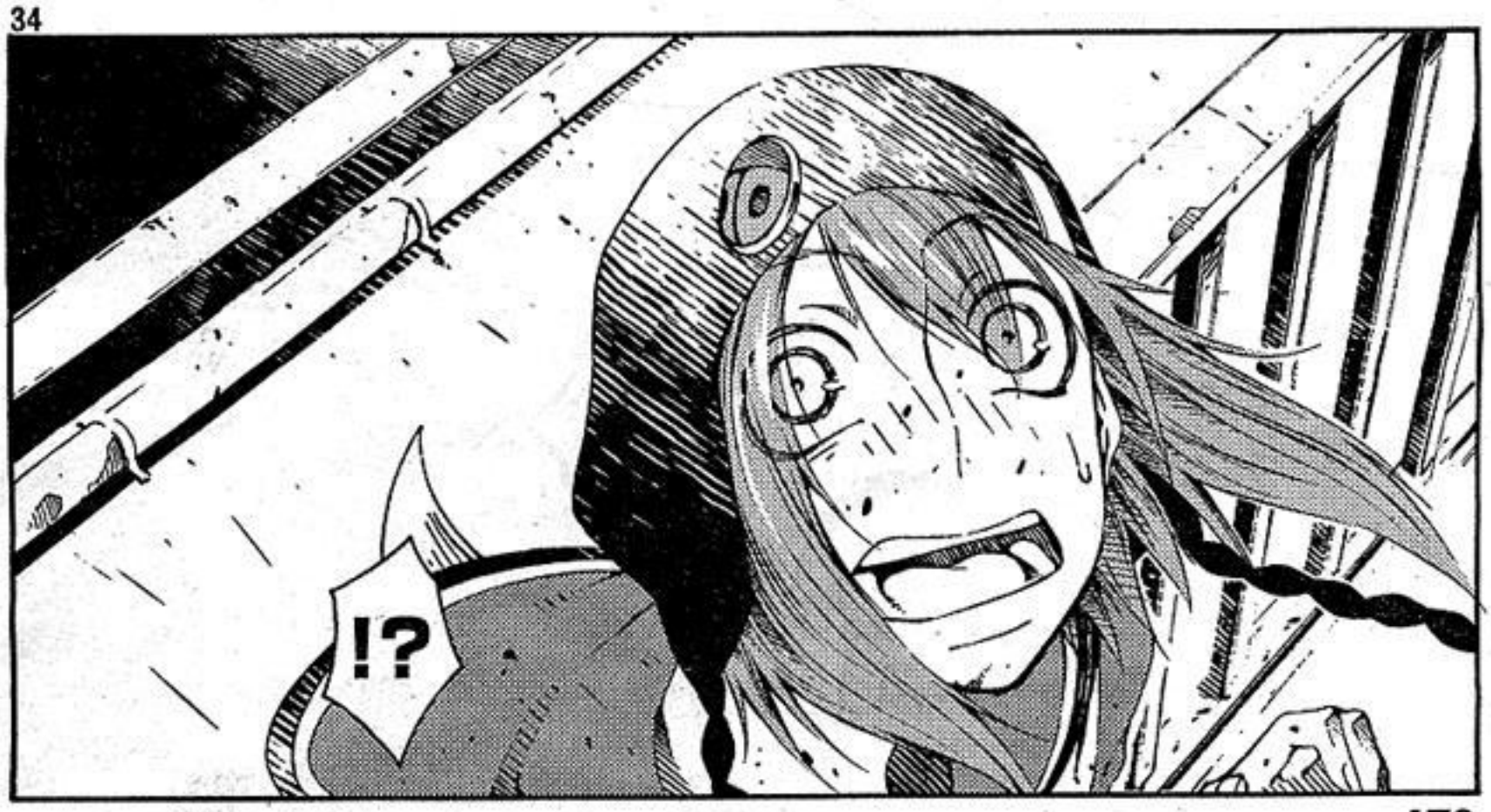
アフタヌーンKC
ラブやん 1〜11
田丸浩史
ロリ・オタ・プーのダメ男の恋をイイ感じに!?　愛の天使ラブやん登場!!
絶賛発売中!!
定価540円〜570円(税込)











Xmasの思い出

娘が幼児のころ、100円ショップでクリスマスプレゼントを用意したら、「サンタさんは100円ショップで買ってるんだね」とつっこまれた。

福岡県・ほしの(40)♀・社会人

HUH !?

HE ..
HE FEL ...?

OH THAT'S NOT IT

HE...
RAN AWAY ...?

BUT JUST WHAT WAS THAT?

THOSE..

PITIFUL EYES JUST NOW..

.....

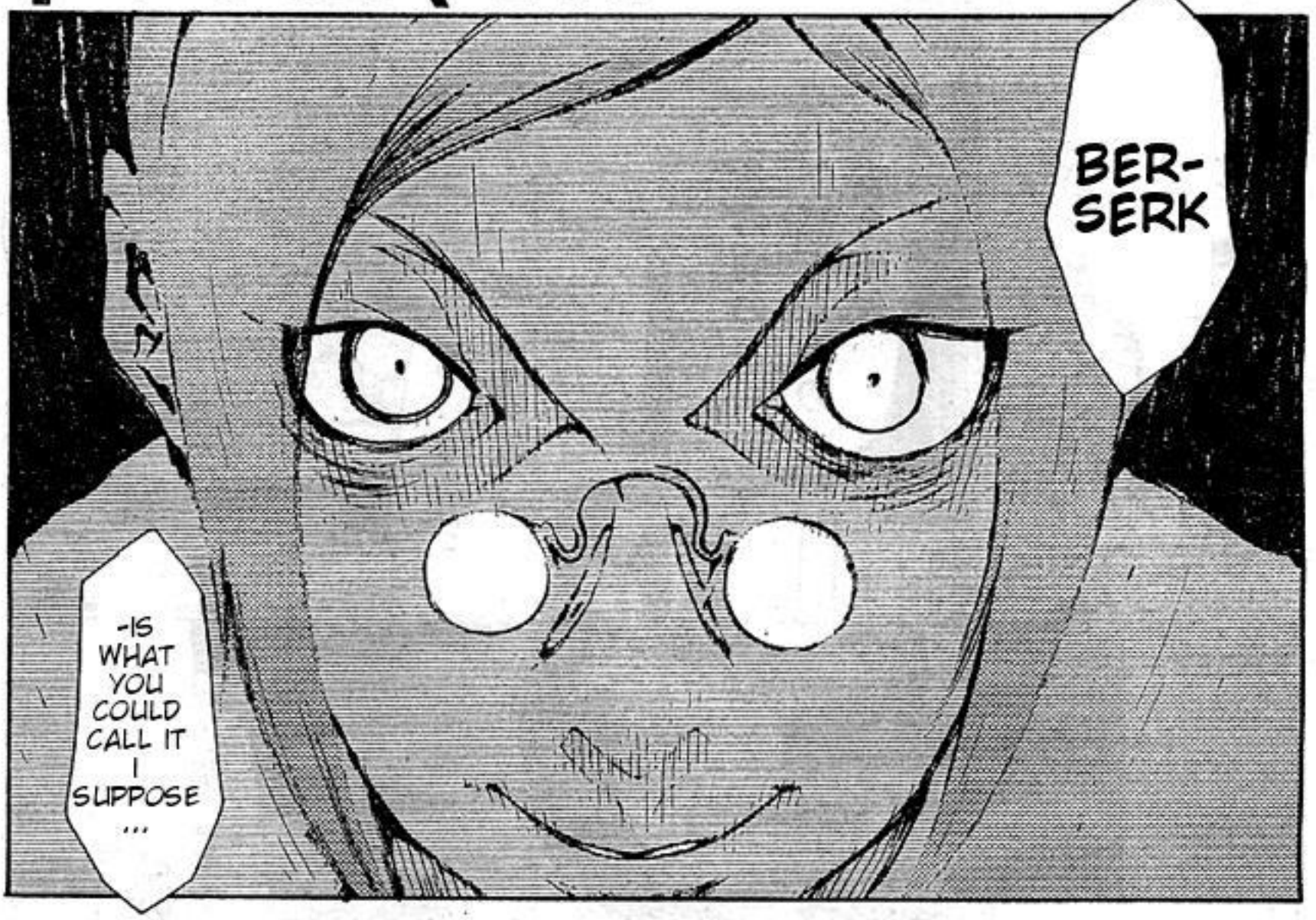
IF I DIDN'T HAVE THIS WOUND

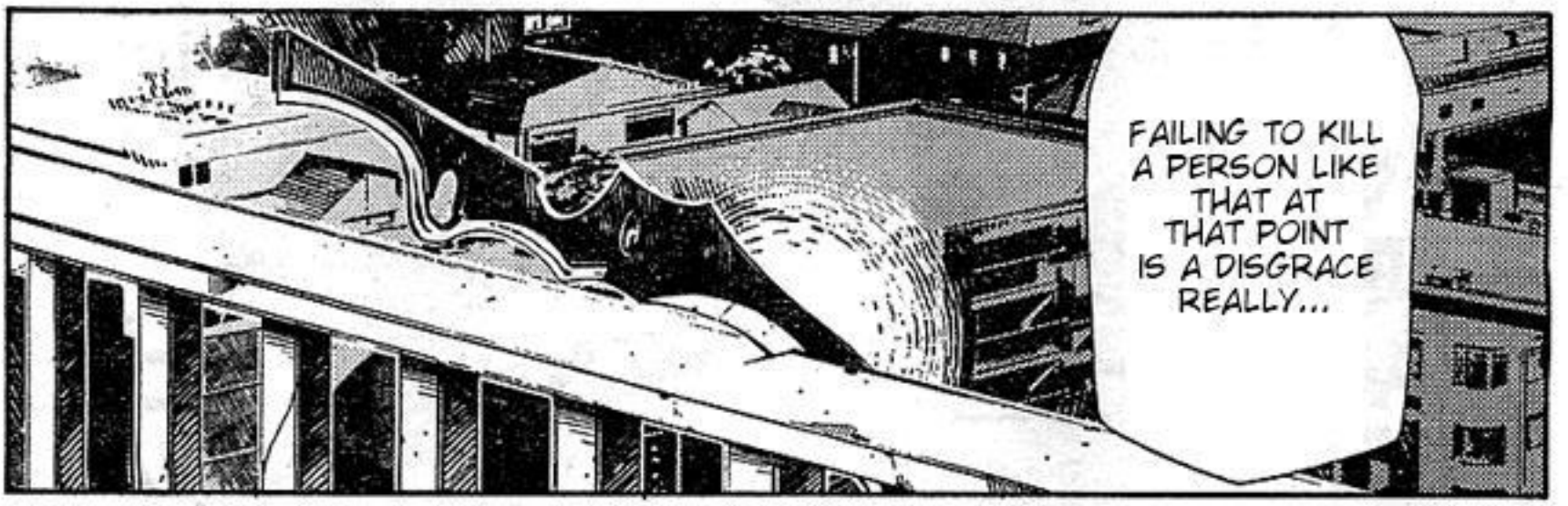
HE WOULD HAVE DEFINITELY BEEN KILLED

SAWA-RABI NAG-UMA

THAT WAS A CLOSE ONE REGARDLESS OF TRUE ABILITY OR NATURE

THAT IN ITSELF IS SURVIVING BY A HAIR'S BREADTH


BER-
SERK
-IS WHAT YOU COULD CALL IT I SUPPOSE ...


FAILING TO KILL A PERSON LIKE THAT AT THAT POINT IS A DISGRACE REALLY...


AT THE PRESENT TIME THERE ARE 3 THINGS I SHOULD DO





この背中が「殺人鬼一家 零崎 かなめ」の要。

人間試験 第4問 了

次号3月号へ続く


5th Question
HOW
SHOULD I EVALUATE YOU, I WONDER..



ザー

ザー

ザー

I DECIDED TO FACE, WITHOUT RUNNING AWAY?

FROM NOW ON, HOW DO I DEAL WITH THE THINGS

KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK

SPLASH

Y-YES...

THANKS TO YOU ....

HOW DO YOU FEEL, IORI-CHAN ?

DID YOU CALM DOWN A BIT ?

S...
SAY...

SOUSHIKI
.....SAN
.....

NO
WAY.

IF YOU
CALLED ME
"BIG BROTHER"
I WOULDN'T
MI-

WELL...
YOU SEE..

WHY DID YOU
SAVE ME AND
EVEN INVITE ME
TO JOIN YOUR
"FAMILY"?

THAT I
HAVE A
TALENT
FOR
KILLING
...

IS IT
BECAUSE
I HAVE
A GOOD
DISPOSITION
...?

WHY

DID A KILLING DEVIL CREATE A FAMILY ?

EH?

LONELI-NESS.

...

WAS ORIGINALLY A VERY LONELY BEING.

YOU SEE, THE EXISTENCE WE CALL A "KILLING DEVIL"

"KILLING DEVILS" CANNOT MAKE ANY ACQUAIN-TANCES

BEST FRIENDS, LOVERS ...

NO RIVALS, NO TEACHERS

NOT EVEN SOMEBODY WHO UNDER-STANDS...

That is why, I...

NO MATTER HOW FAR YOU GO, YOU ARE ALONE.

WHETHER YOU'RE HERE OR NOT, IT'S THE SAME.

THE LONELI-NESS NOW BECOMES A DENIAL OF EXISTENCE.

SEEK FOR THINGS I WANT TO PROTECT IN THIS WORLD OF SOLITUDE.

THE STARTING POINT FOR THE GROUP OF KILLING DEVILS, THE ZEROZAKI CLAN.

THAT WAS "FAMILY" FOR US, KILLING DEVILS

THAT WAS —

PEOPLE CANNOT LIVE WHILE BEING AWARE OF TRUE LONELINESS.

BECAUSE OF THIS, EVEN KILLING DEVILS NEED A "FAMILY."

YOU UNDER-STAND, RIGHT?

OUR FAMILY IS FILLED WITH WEIRDOS, BUT THEY'RE ALL GOOD GUYS WITH A SENSE OF BELONGING.

WELL,

MY LITTLE BROTHER MIGHT BE AN EXCEPTION.

LITTLE BROTHER ...

COULD IT BE...

THAT TATTOO-MASKED MAN...?

YES, YES,

HE HAS A HABIT OF WANDERING AROUND. EVEN I GOT MY HAND BURNED...

TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, I ORIGINALLY CAME HERE TO LOOK FOR MY YOUNGER BROTHER, BUT...

THAT'S RIGHT, IORI-CHAN.

DID YOU HAPPEN TO MEET OR SEE MY BROTHER ANYWHERE?

EH?

HU ~ UM

A FACE WITH A TATTOO .....?

DOES HE HAVE ANY OTHER CHARACTER-ISTICS ?

ANY OTHER ....?

LET ME SEE ...

HIS HEIGHT IS ABOUT 150 CM

HE HAS DYED HAIR TIED UP IN THE BACK.

INSTEAD OF EAR-RINGS, HE WEARS PHONE STRAPS.

HE MIGHT ALSO BE WEARING SUNGLASS-ES.

HE STUFFS KNIVES IN EVERY POCKET ON HIS BODY, Y'KNOW?

AND ALTHOUGH HE MIGHT APPEAR QUITE FASHION-ABLE,

THAT IS GOOD.

UFUFU

IF I EVER MET SUCH A PERSON, I WOULD RUN AWAY WITH ALL MY STRENGTH.

NO, JUST TALK-ING TO MYSELF.

DID YOU SAY SOME-THING?

?

BECAUSE IF YOU MET HIM NOW, YOUR MURDERER'S IMPULSE WOULD DEFINITELY KICK IN.

SO THEN, SOUSHIKI-SAN...

I SEE ...

DO YOU NEED THAT LITTLE BROTHER FOR SOMETHING ?

EH?

EH?

EH?

DO YOU NEED A REASON TO SEE FAMILY?

YOU ASK WEIRD THINGS, IORI-CHAN.

WHUA?

DID I SAY SOMETHING STRANGE?

I...

ESPECIALLY MY BROTHER, HE WOULDN'T TALK TO ME UNLESS HE HAD SOME BUSINESS WITH ME.

I... WONDER, I DON'T UNDER-STAND.

WE WEREN'T A FAMILY THAT GOT ALONG WELL TOGETHER ...

BUT I HATED THAT AND WE OFTEN FOUGHT ABOUT IT.

MY BROTHER WOULD SAY "DON'T RUN AWAY" OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

AT LEAST I'M SURE I WASN'T A GOOD LITTLE SISTER.

I WAS ALWAYS SORT OF RUNNING FROM MY FAMILY... ESPECIALLY MY BROTHER.

THAT'S WHY, WHEN MY FAMILY WAS MANIPULATED AND ATTACKED ME...

WHILE CHOKING ME...

AT THAT TIME, I WAS LOSING CONSCIOUS-NESS...

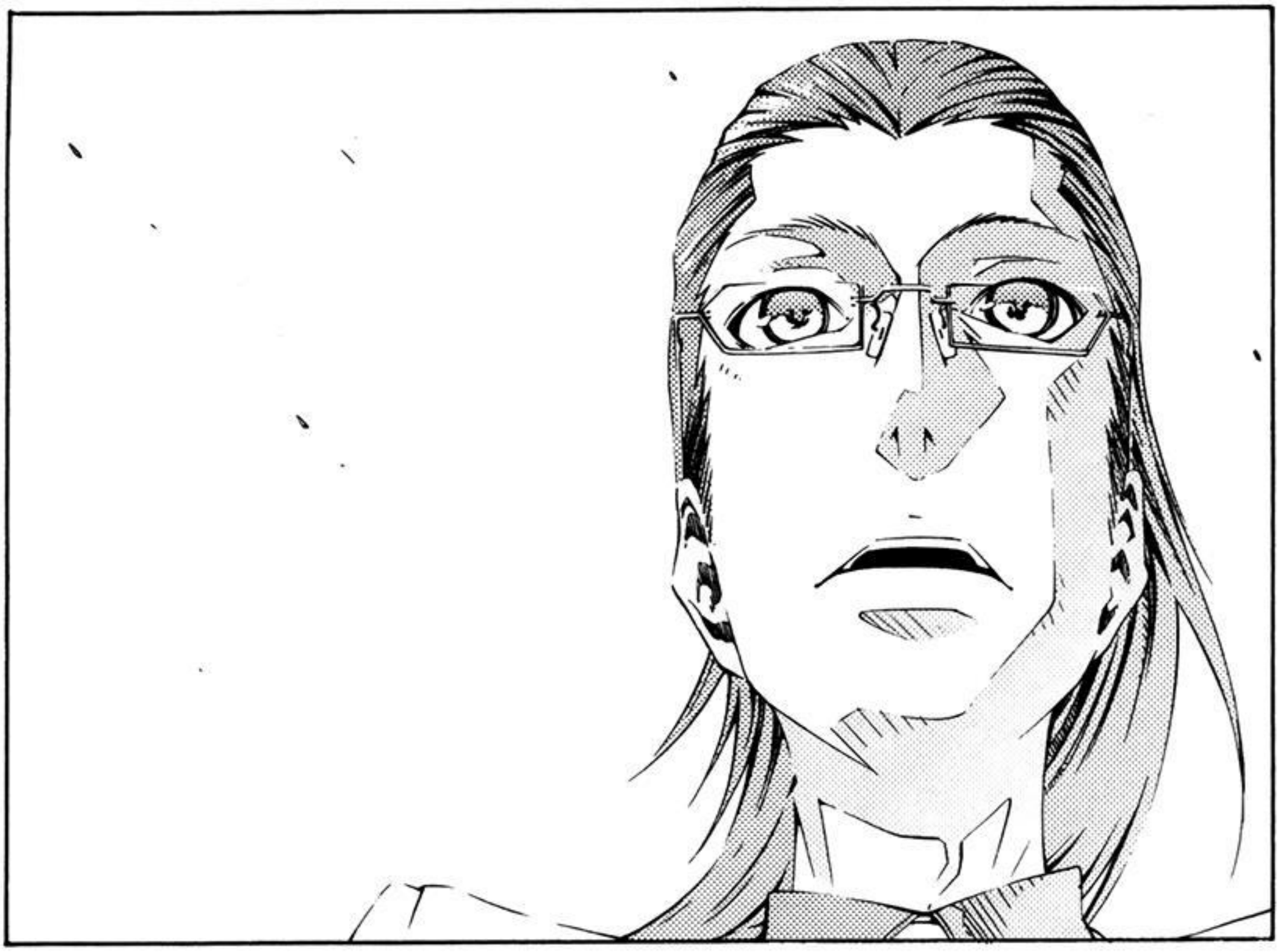
I MIGHT HAVE BEEN SEEING THINGS, BUT...

HM?

WHAT'S WRONG?

N...NO, IT'S JUST THAT.....


HE WAS CRYING...



AH, NO, IT MIGHT TRULY BE A MISTAKE.

Thi-ho

WH... WHAT WOULD THAT BE ...

WITH THIS CONVERSATION, I'M NOW CONVINCED OF SOMETHING.

AH

YES

IORI-CHAN

AS I THOUGHT, WEARING GAITERS UNDER SKIRTS IS EVIL.

Spread

WHO

OSH

WHAT IN THE WORLD HAVE YOU BEEN DOING UNTIL NOW!?

HAA

HAA

AS I THOUGH THAT PERSON ...

ISN'T HE JUST A PERVERT ...

AH, THAT'S RIGHT

I HAVE TO DO SOMETHING QUICKLY

SO WAIT FOR ME OUTSIDE WHEN YOU'RE READY.

BA

NG!







IORI-CHAN'S FATHER, MOTHER, BIG SISTER, AND BIG BROTHER,

I RESPECT YOU.

BY GROWING UP, SURROUNDED BY A FAMILY LIKE THIS,

SHE WAS ABLE TO LIVE 17 YEARS LIKE A NORMAL PERSON,

WITHOUT EVER MANIFESTING HER MURDEROUS IMPULSE.

THANK YOU FOR PROTECTING HER UNTIL NOW.

FROM HERE ON...

A PERFECT SCORE.

WITHOUT A DOUBT...

I WILL PROTECT

MY LITTLE SISTER.

IT'S BRIGHT ....

UWAA

Scratch

BUT...

IT FEELS LIKE IT'S BLESSING IORI-CHAN'S DEPARTURE!

A MEMBER OF THE ZEROZAKI CLAN...

ごくり

YES...
IT'S ME.

I'M
COUNTING
ON YOU.

USE
THE USUAL
DELIVERY.

...YES

I
WANT
A FEW
PIECES OF
INFO.


HA
UWAA


WHA...
OOPS
...


I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YESTERDAY'S REMNANTS, BUT
I'M NOT YESTERDAY'S IORI-CHAN ANYMORE, YOU KNOW
....


BUMP
WHAT IS WITH THIS DEJA-VU
....

WITH MY HIDDEN KILLING DEVIL POWER (?), I....

THUD

UWA !?

AS I THOUGHT, I CAN'T !!

GYAO

8

AAAA AAAA ARG

A.....

AS I....

SLICE

twitches twitches

.....

JUMP

ヤヤ

WHOOSH

THAT WAS CLOSE.

WHOOSH

ATTACK

HA

YOU... YOU SAVED ME, SOUSHIKI-

SAN?

ENTER

ARE YOU OKAY?

IT'S NOT SMART, HEH....

GOOD GRIEF...

A PUPPET ATTACKING A CIVILIAN...?

HM?

.....

SPACED OUT

.....

WHA.... WHAT IS IT ?

WELL, WELL...

HM HM?

I'M HANAMAKI KOJIKA.

BIG SISTER ....

EXAMINES

?

?

HEHE

I'M STARTING TO LIKE YOU, BIG SISTER.

BECOME MY BRIDE!

Another weirdo...

5th Question End



Twisted Hel Scans

brings you

Zerozaki Soushiki's

Humanity Test

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6th Question

PRICKS

I GUESS I HAVE NO CHOICE THIS TIME...

IT'S ANNOYING TO ASK SOMEBODY FOR HELP, BUT...

INSTEAD OF KILLING HER RIGHT AWAY, LET'S USE THIS TO OUR ADVANTAGE.

BECAUSE I NOW KNOW THAT GIRL IS

...NO,

WILL BECOME A ZEROZAKI.

IN THE MOST SUITABLE MANNER FOR THE WEAKEST OF THE ZEROZAKIS.

YES


.....
What's with this situation?!!

UH...

U~ HM...

If he knows about the "dolls," that means he's involved.... right...?

WHY ARE YOU IN A PLACE LIKE THIS, KOJIKA-KUN?

EH!?

TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, I'M...

ARE YOU ALREADY IN LOVE!?

I don't know what to do...

HAVE YOU POSSIBLY DEVELOPED AN INTEREST IN ME!?

!?

A KIDNAP-PER.

...YOU SEE,

!!!

THIS TIME, MY JOB IS TO KIDNAP ONE OF THEIR YOUNGER SISTERS.

Pats

THIS IS JUST BETWEEN US, BUT IN THE UNDERWORLD THERE IS A WORLD FAMOUS CLAN CALLED THE ZEROZAKIS.

Pats

GOOD LUCK ON YOUR JOB!!

I~....

THANKS FOR SAVING ME!

AH,

OH... OOOOOH, SO THAT'S WHAT IT IS!

AND HER NAME IS.... I... I~...

HER SPECIAL TRAITS ARE A SAILOR UNIFORM, A KNITTED HAT,

U~hm....

WELL THEN, I'LL EXCUSE MYSELF NO—

WHAT WAS HER NAME...?

I....

IO...

IO~.....

IORI-CHAN! THANKS FOR WAITING~!

....HEY SIS, HOW ABOUT WE GO HAVE A PICNIC IN A PLACE WITH NO PEOPLE AROUND?

YOU'RE DEFINITELY PLANNING TO KIDNAP ME LIKE THIS, AREN'T YOU!?


MAIN-
LAENDER!!
WHOOPS
WAH
THAT MEANS HE REALLY IS...
SCISSORS!

STEP

STEP

NG

KA

WELL.

BUT,

COMBAT IS OUTSIDE OF MY AREA OF EXPERTISE,

ARGH

VE

SHO

SMASH

SMASH

...SA-

DO YOU NEED SOMETHING FROM MY LITTLE SISTER ?

SAVE ME!!!

STOP THIS PERSON, IORI-CHAN!!

BUT DIDN'T YOU COME TO KIDNAP ME!?

EEEH!?

I'VE, I'VE DECIDED!

HU~UM

UH~HM

IS THAT TRUE?

IT'S NOT TOTALLY UNTRUE, BUT...

FROM THIS POINT ON, I, HANAMAKI KOJIKA,

OFFICIALLY QUIT BEING A KIDNAPPER!

IORI-SAN'S BIG BROTHER.

PLE...

PLEASE BELIEVE ME...

....

BIG BROTH
BIG BROTH
BIG BROTH
BROTHE
BROTHER
BROTHER
BIG BROT
BIG BROT
BROTHER

OTHER BIG
BROTHER
OTHER BIG
HER BIG
THER BIG
THER BIG
THER BIG
THER BIG
THER BIG B

LET'S BELIEVE HIM!

taps

SO EASY-GOING!!

WELL, I UNDER-STAND YOUR FEELINGS, BUT TRUTH BE TOLD, I'M EXTREMELY BUSY.

... RIGHT, SPEAKING OF WHICH, IORI-CHAN.

COULD YOU TURN AROUND WITH YOUR ARMS BEHIND YOUR BACK?

BAM BAM TIGHT

THAT'S GOOD, KEEP THEM LIKE THAT.

?

LIKE ...THIS?

GYAAA

EEH~ ...BUT, LOOK.

SERI- OUSLY...

KOJIKA-KUN, DON'T JUST WATCH, HELP ME!

IT'S NOT LIKE THAT!

DISPLAYING AFFECTION BETWEEN SIBLINGS TAKES MANY FORMS IN OTHER FAMILIES, SO GETTING INVOLVED IS A BIT...

IF YOU JUST WEAR THAT,

ON THE CONTRARY, THIS IS FOR YOUR SAKE.

UNA..

PAT PAT

UFUFU I'M NOT THINKING OF ANYTHING LIKE RAPING MY SISTER, SO DO NOT WORRY.

YOU'LL BE SURE TO NOT KILL ANYONE.

THESE HANDS OF YOURS ARE TOO DANGEROUS.

WITH YOUR CURRENT MURDEROUS NATURE,

THEY'RE MORE THAN ENOUGH TO BE A LETHAL WEAPON.

STANDY

BU...

BUT I DON'T HAVE SUCH A NATURE,

AND I'M ALWAYS SPACING OUT....

.....

YOU KILLING A PERSON IS NOT A PROBLEM.

LISTEN WELL, IORI-CHAN.

THE WAY YOU KILL OR WHETHER YOU EVEN INTENDED TO DO IT, DOESN'T MATTER.

THE PROBLEM IS THAT,

YOU ARE A PERSON CAPABLE OF KILLING OTHERS.

WHAT YOU HAVE ISN'T A *TALENT FOR KILLING,*

BUT A *MURDEROUS NATURE.*

People can never go against their nature.

FOR US KILLING DEVILS, THE OPTION "TO NOT KILL" DOES NOT EXIST.

WHEN WE MEET A PERSON, WE HAVE BUT A SINGLE CHOICE, TO KILL THEM.

NORMALLY, THAT WOULD BE A PRE-REQUISITE.

AND THE ONE WHO KILLED JION-KUN AT SCHOOL WAS ME.

YOU HAVEN'T KILLED ANYONE YET.

BUT....

RIGHT NOW, YOU ARE JUST "AN ORDINARY PERSON WHO DEFENDED HERSELF."

SUPPOSEDLY, THERE SHOULD STILL BE A WAY FOR YOU TO GO BACK TO BEING "NORMAL."

IF YOU HADN'T BEEN ATTACKED BY THE "DOLLS" THIS TIME

THERE'S A HIGH PROBABILITY THAT YOUR NATURE WOULD HAVE NEVER AWOKEN.

WHICH IS WHY

I WANT TO BET ON THAT POSSIBILITY.

OF A "NOT LONELY KILLING DEVIL" WHO WON'T KILL PEOPLE.

THE POSSI-BILITY

FLINCH

KOJIKA-KUN, WAS IT....?

WELL THEN,

COULD I ASK YOU TO KEEP AN EYE ON IORI-CHAN WHILE I'M AWAY?

TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, I REALLY WANT TO EXAMINE YOU NOW, BUT I'M BUSY WITH SOMETHING.

DIDN'T I TELL YOU THAT HE CAME TO KIDNAP ME?

WHY?

M... ...ME?

NO WAY! NO WAY!

IT'S FINE, IT'S FINE.

HE'S DEFINITELY A COMRADE OF THAT MACKEREL SOMETHING GUY!

TL NOTE: SHE SAYS "SAWARA" AS A SHORTENING OF SAWARABI, BUT IN A WAY THAT MEANS MACKEREL.

BRIGHT

EVEN IF YOU WERE KIDNAPPED, YOU WOULD ONLY LOSE ABOUT A LIMB FROM TORTURE.

COULD YOU NOT SAY SUCH SCARY THINGS SO EASILY!!

EVEN SO, IT IS NOT MY WISH FOR YOU TO STAY CLOSE TO ME

AND INCREASE YOUR MURDEROUS BEHAVIORS BY MISTAKE.

UFUFU

I'M TRUSTING YOU.

SQUEEZE

UNTIL I SETTLE SOME BUSINESS.

TAPS

PLEASE ENDURE IT, ALONG WITH THOSE RESTRAINTS,

WELL THEN, I'M GOING.

SEE YOU LATER!

COLLAPSES

SCARY~

I THOUGHT I WAS GOING TO BE KILLED...

.....

SLICE

YOU FAIL!

SINCE WE'RE FINALLY ALONE...

WELL, IT'S FINE.

LET'S GO ON A DATE!

.....

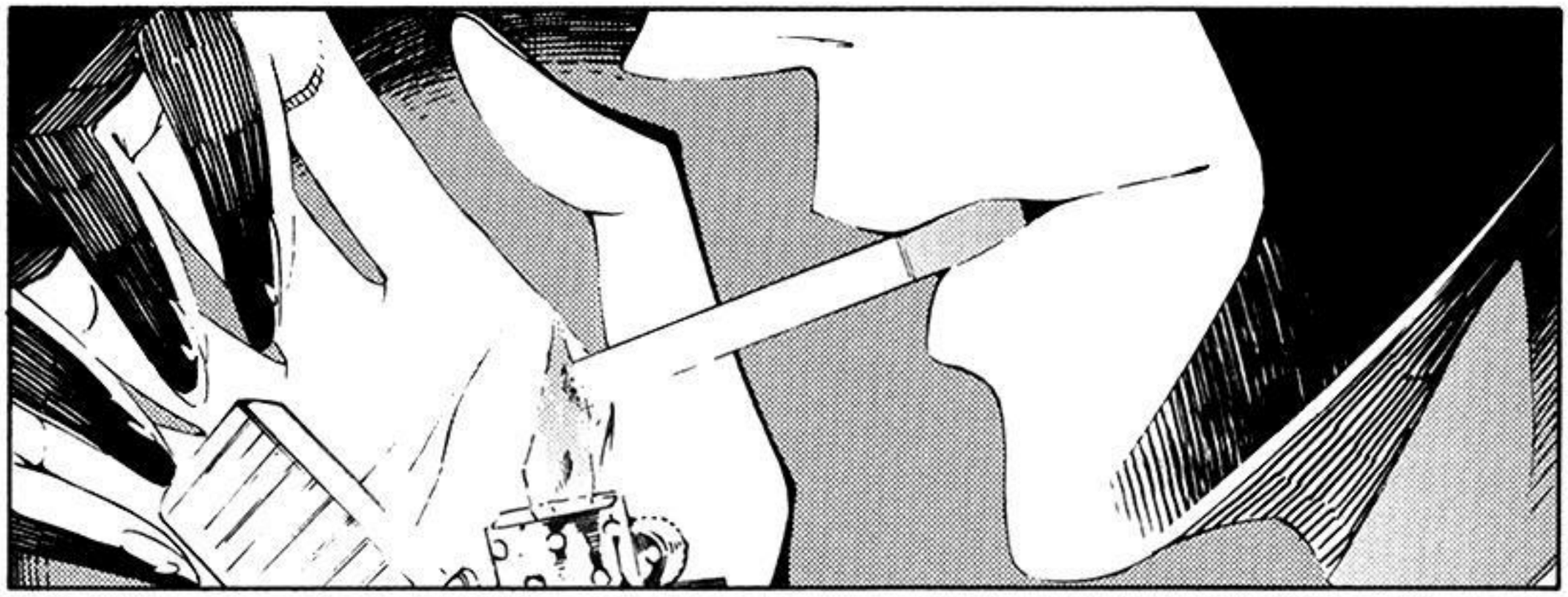
TOBACCO

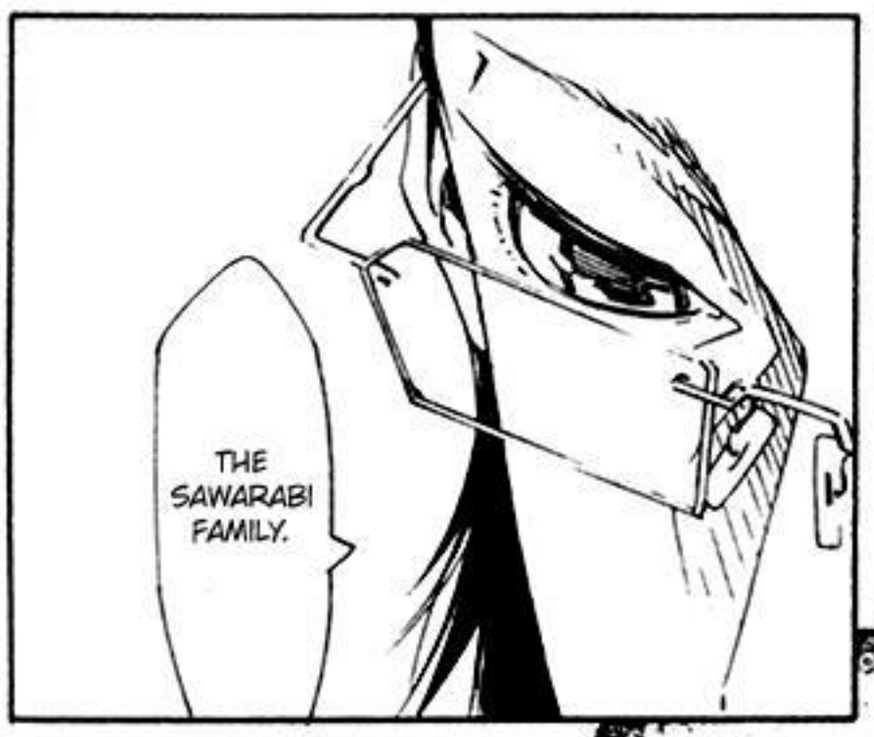
THE USUAL.

BACCO

SUUU

喫煙は、あなたにとって様々
の原因の一つとなります。
疫学的な推計によると、喫煙者は肺がん
により死亡する危険性が非喫煙者に比
べて約2倍から4倍高くなります。
(詳細については厚生労働省のホームページ
www.mhlw.go.jp/topics/tobacco/main.
html をご参照ください)







The Cutthroats
Zerozaki

ONE OF THE SEVEN BIG NAMES AMONGST KILLERS.

The Death Gods
Ishinagi

The Hitmen
Niounomiya

A BRANCH FAMILY OF THE "NIOUNOMIYA" KILLER CLAN.

The Assassins
Yamiguchi

The Cleaners
Tenbuki

THEIR GROUP CONSISTING OF MAGICIANS OF MASSACRE, THE NIOUNOMIYA ACROBATS GROUP.

The Managers
Susukino

The Mass Killers
Hakamori

THE CURRENT HEAD OF THE SAWARABI FAMILY, THE ELDEST SON SAWARABI HAWATARI, USES A LONG SWORD.

THE SECOND ELDEST SON SAWARABI KAGUMA WIELDS A HALBERD.

AND THE ELDEST DAUGHTER THAT MY BROTHER KILLED, SAWARABI YUMIYA WIELDED A BOW.

THE COMBINATION OF THESE THREE RANGES WERE THE 3 KILLER URI SIBLINGS.

ONE OF THE PEOPLE COOPERATING WITH THE SAWARABIS IS TOKINOMIYA TOKEI.

ONE OF HIS SPELLS IS "TOKINOMIYA HOSPITAL," HIS AGE IS UNKNOWN.

HE'S PROBABLY THE ONE MAKING THE DOLLS AND THE KEKKAI.

*T/N: KEKKAI MEANS A BARRIER OFTEN PHYSICAL OR MAGICAL.

OH... THERE'S INFO ON HIM, TOO.

HE'S RE-MARK-ABLE.

HANAMAKI KOJIKA. AN INDEPENDENT KIDNAPPER.

BUT HE'S BACKED BY NO ONE AND HAS NO RELATIVES.... HUH.

F U U U

SHALL I GO PEEK ON THE GIRLS FROM IORI-CHAN'S SCHOOL WHILE HEADING TO A POSSIBLE SAWARABI HIDEOUT?

.....

I WONDER IF THOSE TWO ARE GETTING ALONG...

.....

.....

SWIFTLY

Both of my hands are tied and on top of that we're alone...!?

Seri-ously... What am I supposed to do here...?

UP

EIIYA!

UNA!?

IIS

AH... WELL...

WHA...

WHA- WHA- WHA- WHAT ?

I WAS JUST WONDERING IF I COULD TAKE IT OFF.

.....

BUT AS I THOUGHT, IT'S IMPOSSIBLE USING NORMAL MEANS...

SORRY ...

!

ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT ME?

BECAUSE... AREN'T YOU... BETRAYING THAT MACKEREL... PERSON LIKE THIS ?

UM... KOJIKA-KUN...

IT'S JUST ME SAYING THIS, BUT IS THIS OKAY?

HM?

WHAT IS?

HEHE

LIKE I SAID, YOU'RE WRONG.

ARE YOU REALLY HEAD OVER HEELS FOR ME THEN?

IT'S SOMETHING I CHOSE FOR MYSELF.

CHOSE...

THAT'S HOW I'VE LIVED ON MY OWN ALL THIS TIME.

I DECIDE HOW I LIVE,

WHAT I CHOOSE.

BUT WHAT IF YOU FAIL, OR YOU REGRET DOING SOMETHING?

.....

IT'S EASY TO LIVE BY OTHER PEOPLE'S INSTRUCTIONS AND ORDERS, BUT....

IF IT'S A PATH I CHOSE FOR MYSELF, THEN IT'S FINE.

THE SUCCESSES, THE FAILURES, THE HONORS, AND THE DISHONORS, THEY'RE ALL MINE.

LIVING LIKE THAT IS JUST LIKE

BEING A "PUPPET ON STRINGS."

....

IS THIS ABOUT THAT "PROBABILITY" SPEECH?

BUT I'M....

SCARED THAT I COULD CHANGE AS A CONSEQUENCE OF MY DECISIONS.

I DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND THINGS LIKE TALENTS OR NATURES,

BUT THAT DOESN'T MATTER...

EVERYBODY FACES A TIME WHERE THEY HAVE TO CHOOSE.

YOU CAN'T,

RUN AWAY FOREVER.

WHEN THE TIME COMES,

I WILL DEFINITELY CHOOSE.

I DECIDED SOMETHING JUST NOW...

?

I PROMISE.

....

...OR IS THAT CHEATING A BIT?

REALLY!

IT'S FINE! THERE'S MEANING TO ANYTHING YOU DECIDE!

REALLY?

BOOM

REALLY...?

6th Question End



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Zerozaki Soushiki's

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7th Question

SAY, IORI-SAN...

I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT THIS SINCE WE MET...

IORI-SAN, YOU'RE SURPRISINGLY...

HM~?

WHAT IS IT, KOJIKA-KUN?

SPLASH

!?

NORMAL.



Weren't they just making fun of you...?

AH... THAT'S NOT IT...

BY NORMAL, I MEAN TO THE STANDARDS OF OUR BUSINESS...

NORMAL ...

THE ME THAT WAS CALLED THE "DANCING PRINCESS" AT SCHOOL, NORMAL...

HOW DO I SAY THIS... YOU DON'T GIVE OFF THE FEELING OF A ZEROZAKI.

IT'S COMPLETE-LY DIFFERENT THAN WITH MEINDRENDEL*.

KILLING DEVILS ARE MORE LIKE...

T/N: Zerozaki Soushiki

YOU DON'T FEEL LIKE THE SERIAL KILLER

THAT DISMEMBERED 12 PEOPLE IN KYOTO, YOU SEE.

ACCORDING TO THE RUMOURS, THE CONTRACTOR IS CHASING AFTER THE CULPRIT.

WHO KNOWS, IT MIGHT BE A ZEROZAKI.

HUH...

SO THERE WERE KILLING INCIDENTS IN KYOTO?

SHOULDN'T IT BE ON THE NEWS OR SOME-THING...

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT~

THE STRONGEST~? THEY SEEM STRONG~

...

WAIT A SECOND, IF YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW ABOUT THE INCIDENTS, DOES THAT MEAN YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT **HUMANITY'S STRONGEST!?**

"DON'T TURN HUMANITY'S STRONGEST OR THE ZEROZAKIS INTO YOUR ENEMIES" IS COMMON KNOWLEDGE IN THIS BUSINESS BUT...

... LISTEN WELL,

OCCUPATION:
CONTRACTOR

"DEATH COLORED CRIMSON" "DESERT FALCON" "RED PUNISHMENT"

HER NAMES ARE COUNTLESS

WEARING RED ALL OVER HER BODY, **HUMANITY'S STRONGEST WOMAN WHO CAN COMPLETE ANY JOB.**

THE STORIES SAY THAT THOUGH SHE'S SOFT WITH HER FAMILY, SHE HAS NO MERCY FOR ENEMIES.

BUT...

HMMM ...

IF POSSIBLE, I'D LIKE TO NEVER GET INVOLVED WITH ANY OF THEM.

WITH THE ZEROZAKI.

YOU GOT INVOLVED, DIDN'T YOU?

STILL, YOU ACCEPTED THE KIDNAP-PING JOB.

CONTRARY TO SAWARA-SAN, WHO FIGHTS FOR A JUST CAUSE CALLED REVENGE.

WHY IS THAT?

THEY'RE NOT PEOPLE YOU WANT TO OPPOSE, RIGHT?

I WON'T LAUGH.

...YOU WON'T LAUGH?

?

YOU NEEDED MONEY?

...

I JUST ACCEPTED THAT JOB BECAUSE THE REWARD WAS GOOD.

IS A HOME ...

A HOME?

IT'S NOT THAT.

MONEY IS JUST A MEANS TO ATTAIN MY GOALS AND FOR THE FUTURE.

WHAT I REALLY WANT...

A HOME THAT I CAN RETURN TO.

A WARM FAMILY.

WHAT ABOUT YOUR PARENTS?

...

BECAUSE EVEN IF I FAILED,

THAT'S WHY I TOOK THE JOB.

I DON'T HAVE ANY.

I WAS AN ABDUCTED CHILD FROM THE START.

I WOULD BE THE ONLY ONE TO DIE.

REALLY?

I'M SURROUNDED BY PEOPLE WHO TAKE ME FOR AN IDIOT OR LOOK DOWN ON ME WHEN I TALK ABOUT THAT...

SO...

IT'S A CHILDISH AND LAUGHABLE DREAM, RIGHT?

IT'S NOT!

THAT'S NOT TRUE.

I FINALLY REALIZED THAT FAMILY...

MIGHT BE SOMETHING INCREDIBLY IMPORTANT...

AFTER

EXPERIENCING SOMETHING SO UNBELIEVABLE,

IT'S TOO LATE NOW, BUT...

I BELIEVE THE VERY FACT THAT I CAN SEE IT AS IMPORTANT

MIGHT IN ITSELF BE A WONDERFUL THING.

LOOK OVER THERE!

...

AH.

LET'S GO AND REST A BIT.

TO BE HONEST I HAVEN'T SLEPT AT ALL SINCE YESTERDAY,

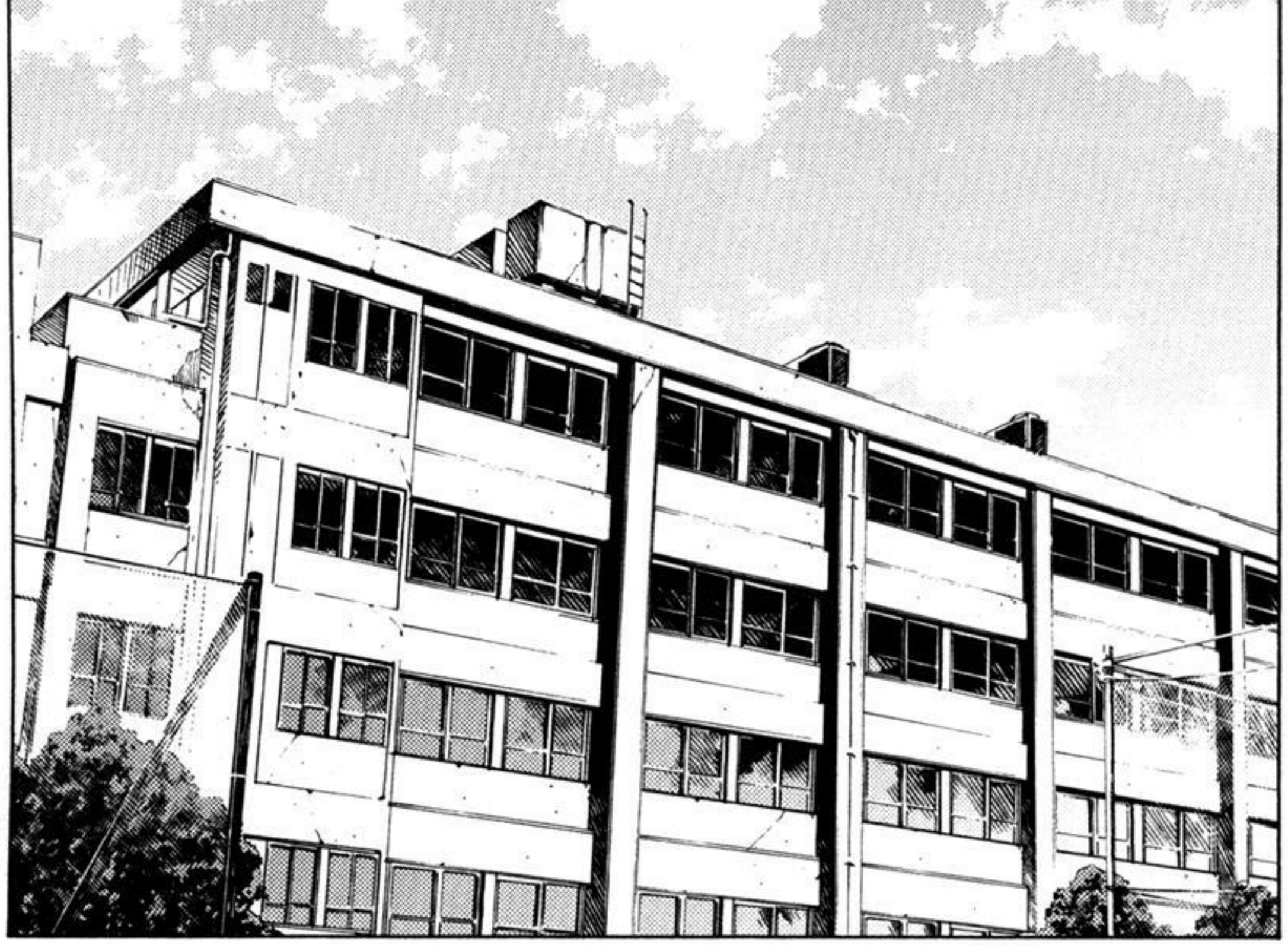
IORI-CHAN IS SO EXHAUSTED.

IT JUST...

LOWERS

STOP SAYING THINGS LIKE THAT...

SOUNDS LIKE A NORMAL LIFE....









I GUESS IT IS OBVIOUS SINCE THEY DO NOT HOLD ANY VALUE IN SAWARAGI ANYMORE...

THE BARRIER AROUND HERE IS GOING TO DETERIORATE SOMETIME SOON...

I'LL HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF THE DISPOSALS AND MANAGEMENT OF INFORMATION, INCLUDING ABOUT THOSE IN THE MANSION.

UHM.. EXCUSE ME.

ARE YOU A STUDENT'S GUARDIAN?

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU CAN GO THROUGH THE FRONT GATE TO THE STAFF... ROOM..

UHM..

COULD YOU POSSIBLY BE MUTOU IORI-SAN'S GUARDIAN?

UFUFU.

IT MUST BE WEIRD... I JUST THOUGHT YOU LOOKED A BIT SIMILAR..

AH, I'M SORRY,

Ha!

GREAT.

HUH?

ARE YOU A TEACHER HERE?

TO BE HONEST ...

YE... YES. THAT'S... RIGHT.

TSK TSK

YOU'RE **NORMAL.**

YOU'RE WRONG, I MEANT IT AS A COMPLIMENT.

I'M PLAIN AND I LACK PERSONALITY...

Sensei is shocked.

AAH...

I'M REALLY NORMAL, AREN'T I...

THAT'S WHY, IF IT'S POSSIBLE, I WANT THAT GIRL

BESIDES, ONCE THEY LET GO OF **NORMALITY,** THAT'S NOT SOMETHING THEY CAN GET BACK THROUGH HALF-HEARTED EFFORTS.

OTHER PEOPLE CAN END UP HURTING THEM WITHOUT MEANING IT.

FOR THOSE WHO AREN'T **NORMAL,** THIS PATH CAN BE GOOD AND BAD.

TO BE ABLE TO CHOOSE A "NORMAL LIFE."

...

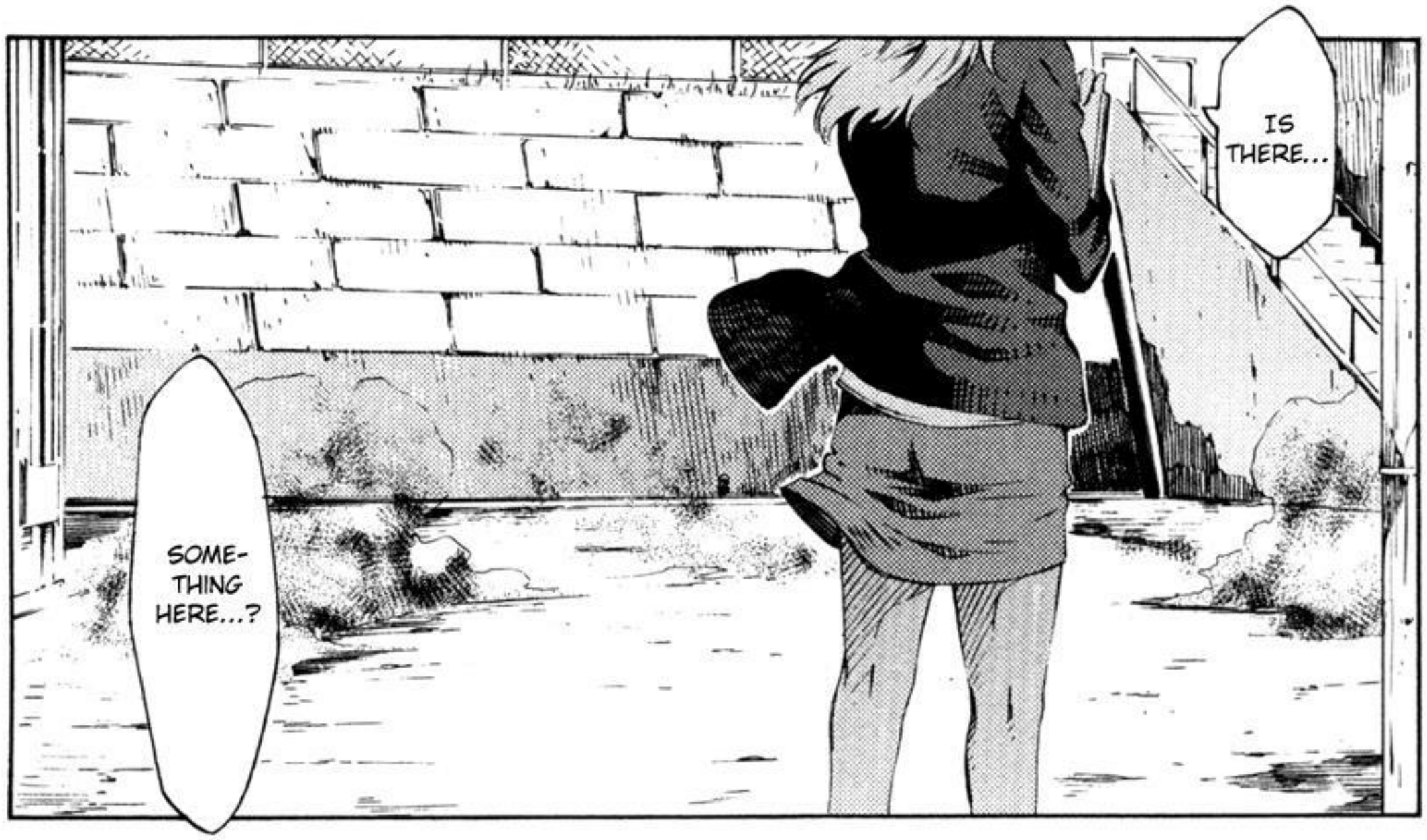
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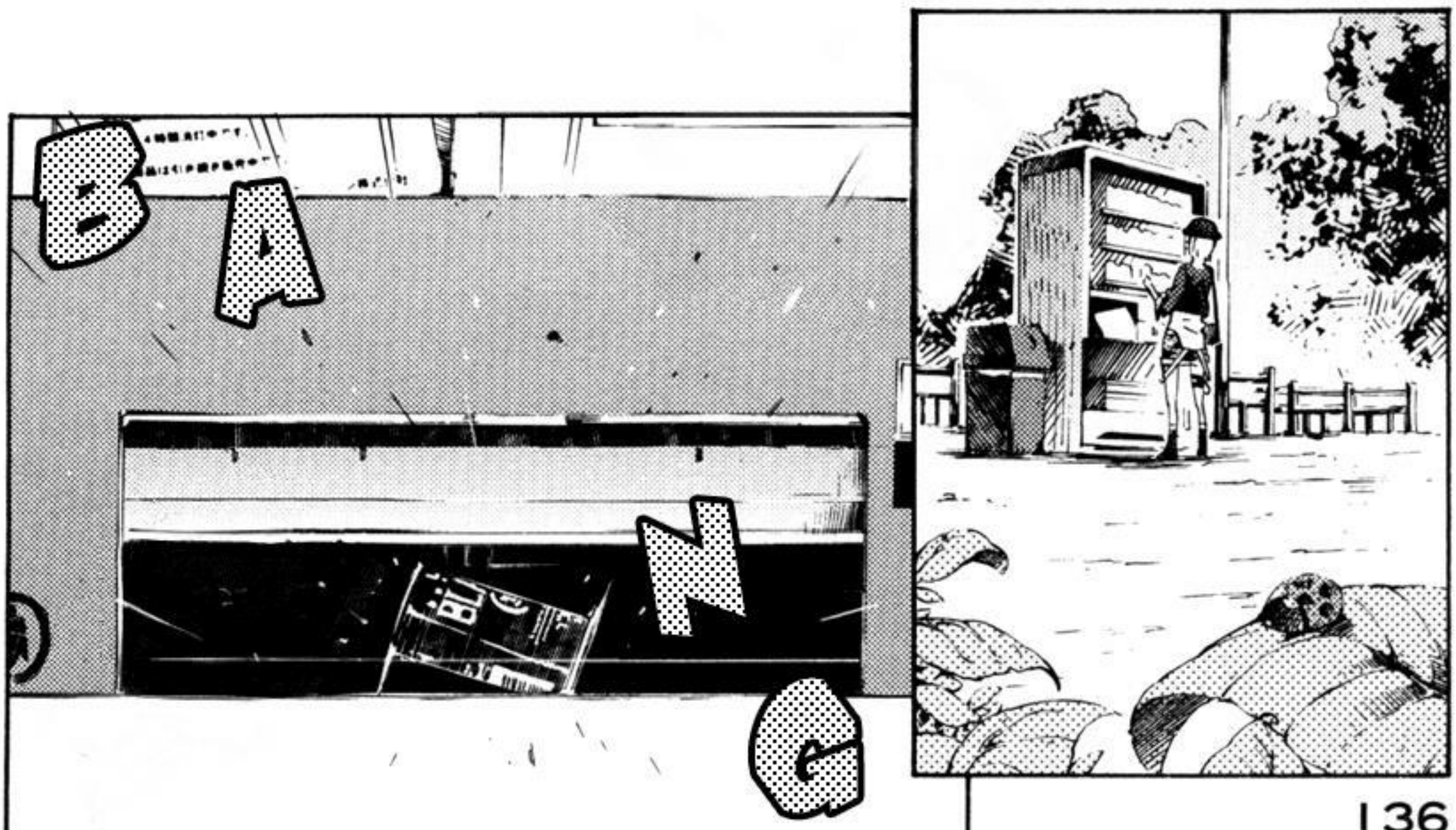
...

AH, NO, I APOLOGIZE.

THIS OUTSIDER WILL LEAVE NOW.


...


IS THERE...
SOME-THING HERE...?


BANG

HERE IORI-SAN,

COFFEE TO KEEP YOU AWAKE...

...

ZZZZ

SHE'S SLEEPING WITH HER HANDS TIED TOGETHER ...

HOW HANDY ...

TSTS

...Who...?

It's... not Soushiki-san ...

Is he close by...?

Kills...?

That's right...

A devil who kills people...

A killing devil...

I shouldn't know him but,

I get the feeling I do...

34

I have to KILL!

ドンッ

KILL

KILL

KILL

KILL

ha

hu



TU

FWT

wakes up

UWA ...?

!?

FU

WAH.

WAH.

WHA

WAWAH...

GUH!

FALLS

...

OUCH...
I'M SORRY.

IT LOOKS LIKE I WAS HALF-ASLEEP...

COLD

ARE YOU OKAY?

AH, YEAH I'M FINE.

...I'M FINE...

SWEAT

...KOJIKA-KUN?

HUH?

AH, WHAT?

...

Different from the threat of Meindrendel's killing intent...

A lump of more genuine killing intent...

Zerozaki...

...

AAH.

YOU ARRIVED EARLIER THAN EXPECTED.

SAWARA-SAN!?

IT'S SAWARAGI.

YOU MAY NOT UNDERSTAND BUT,

FOR US, NAMES ARE VERY IMPORTANT.

COULD YOU NOT SHORTEN IT AS YOU PLEASE?

WH... WHY ARE YOU HERE?

WHY ...?

HOW ABOUT USING YOUR BRAIN BEFORE ASKING QUESTIONS?

TAP TAP

HUH?

I JUST CAME TO RETRIEVE THE HOSTAGE.

DID YOU NOT NOTICE?

THAT YOU WERE GUIDED... NO,

THAT YOU WERE KIDNAPPED HERE?

THIS PLACE IS ALREADY INSIDE OUR BARRIER.

REVEALING HIMSELF, FINDING A PLACE IN YOUR HEART,

AND GUIDING THE TARGET TO A SPECIAL POINT.

THAT IS THIS KIDNAPPER'S MODUS OPERANDI.

DROPS!

GOOD WORK.

EH?

WAI-

YOU CAN DISAPPEAR ANYWHERE YOU WANT.

YOUR JOB IS OVER NOW,

IN REALITY I...

IORI-SAN, YOU SEE,

...

LET GO OF ME!

APPROACHED YOU, KNOWING THAT YOU WERE A ZEROZAKI FROM THE START.

YOU BEING ATTACKED BY THE PUPPETS, ME SAVING YOU, OUR CONVERSATION, MY ACTIONS,

ALL OF IT WAS AN ACT.

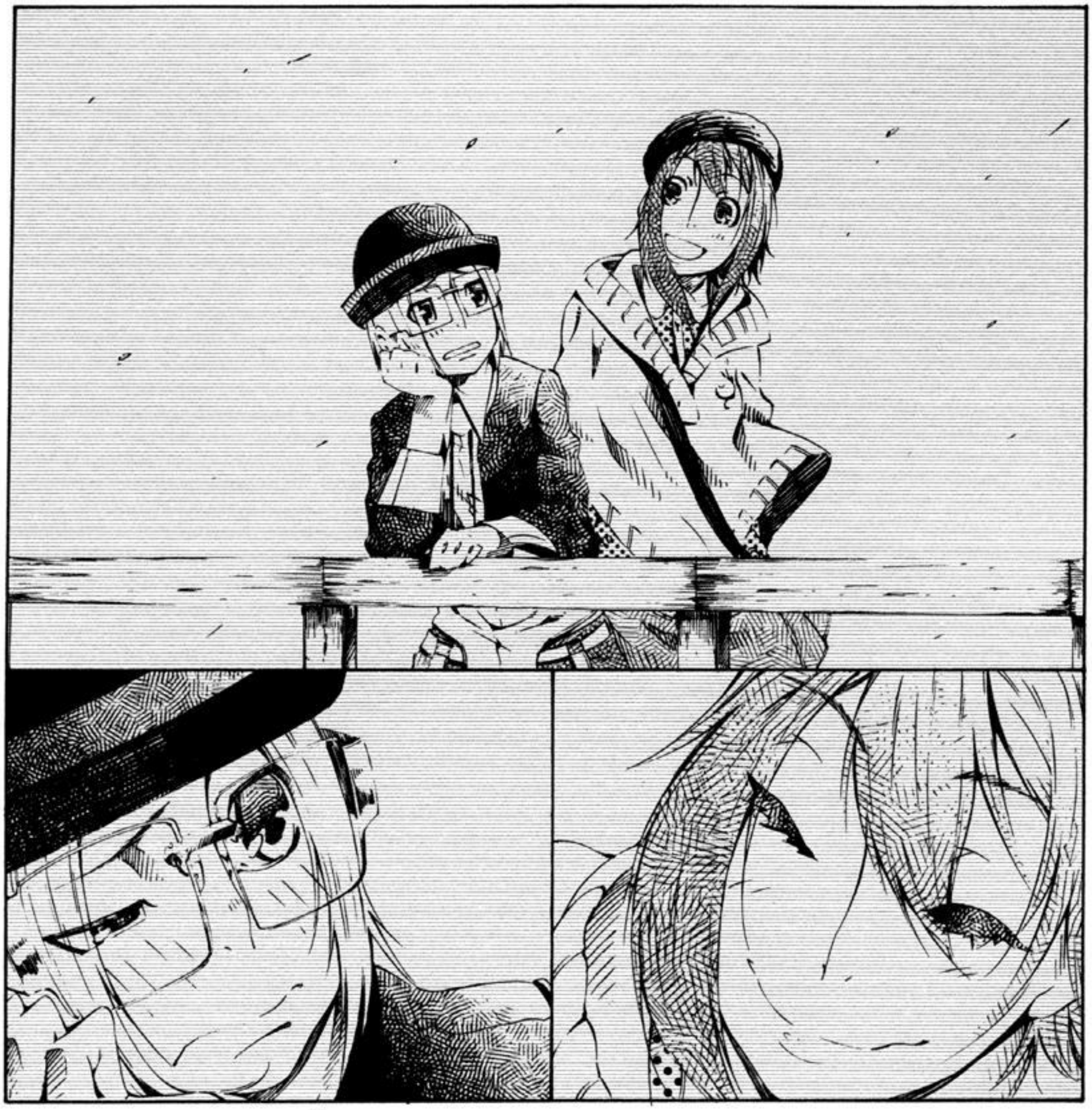
MEINDREDEL CAME OUT A BIT EARLIER THAN EXPECTED BUT,

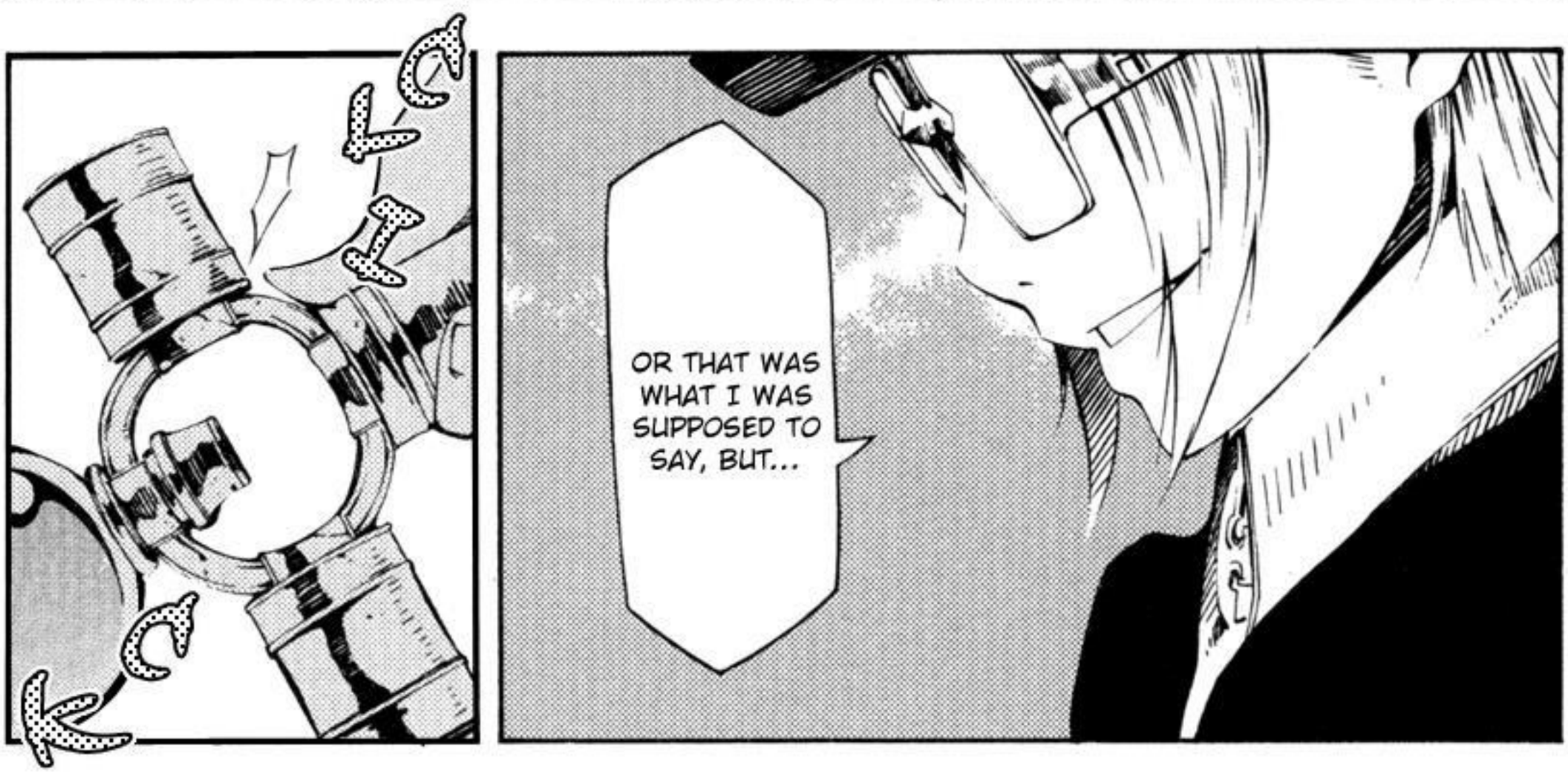
ALL I NEEDED FOR THE KIDNAPPING WAS SOME COURAGE AND AD LIB.

WASN'T IT GOOD?

THIS IS THE ROAD THAT I CHOSE IN ORDER TO LIVE ALONE IN THIS WORLD,

AND THAT WON'T EVER CHANGE.




OR THAT WAS WHAT I WAS SUPPOSED TO SAY, BUT...

BOOM

KA CHING

HEHE.

I'M SORRY, SAWARAGI-SAN.

I FEEL BAD FOR BREAKING THE CONTRACT BUT,

...

WHAT IS THIS SUPPOSED TO BE, KIDNAPPER?

!?

I HAVE DECIDED THAT I WOULD MAKE IORI-SAN

MY BIG SISTER.

I DON'T HAVE ANY INTENTION ATTACHING MYSELF TO NEITHER THE ZEROZAKIS NOR THE SAWARAGIS.

SPIN

SPIN

GOSH NO, DON'T MISUNDER-STAND.

...DOES THAT MEAN YOU ARE ATTACHING YOURSELF TO THE ZEROZAKIS?

THAT IS MY...

SO YOU WILL BE FAR AWAY BY THE TIME WE NOTICE, IS THAT IT?

CLICK

I WILL TAKE CARE OF YOU RIGHT HERE, USING THE SAME MASQUERADE THAT I USED FOR IORI-SAN'S KIDNAPPING.

MODUS OPERANDI.

EH...?

THINK THAT YOU SHOULDN'T BE IN THIS BLOOD-SOAKED WORLD.

IORI-SAN,

YOU SEE, I

IF BY YOU COMING CLOSER TO THIS WORLD, YOU BECOME DRIVEN BY YOUR KILLING INSTINCTS,

RIGHT NOW, I SORT OF UNDERSTAND WHAT MEINDRENDEL MEANT BY

"POTENTIAL."

I WILL TAKE YOU FAR AWAY.

HAA...

scratch scratch

HOW ANNOY-ING.

YOU PLAN TO FIGHT ME WITH THOSE WOUNDS?

IF YOU WERE IN PERFECT FORM, IT WOULD BE FINE BUT, WHILE YOU'RE WOUNDED YOU ARE ...

AS I THOUGHT, I SHOULDN'T HAVE LET SOMEONE ELSE DO THE JOB.

NGS

SWI

NO MORE THAN SMALL FRY.

APS

WR

I'VE GOT YOU!!

NG

Z!

SHEA

THES

oppo

ors

FALLS

CHILD'S PLAY.

!?

!?

HOW CONVE-NIENT.

BOTH OF YOUR HANDS ARE BOUND, HUH.

BAM

WHEN DID... YOU-

!!

DOES YOUR FAMILY PLAY ALONE.

IORI-SAN!

ドド

YOU SMALL FRY.

SSHHH

DIE IN PAIN!

7th Question End



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ZEROZAKI SOUSHIKI NO NINGEN SHIKEN

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QUESTION 8
WHERE...

¿I WA...




SO?
HAVE YOU GOTTEN A HOLD OF HER YET?


.....
HEE...


HER?
...THE RED CONTRACTOR.
I'M TALKING ABOUT "MANKIND'S STRONGEST".

I UNDERSTAND YOU CAN NEVER BE TOO PREPARED TO GO AGAINST THE "WORST",

AND I WON'T SAY ANYTHING IF WE HAVE TO RELY ON MORE OUTSIDERS...

BUT WHY DON'T WE FIGURE SOMETHING OUT ON OUR OWN.

FUFU

THEN THIS OUTSIDER WILL BE EXCUSING HIMSELF NOW.

GIVE ME A CALL IF YOU NEED MORE PUPPETS OR BARRIERS.

I'LL MAKE IT CHEAP.

TCH.

DAMN SCROO-GE.

I'M GOING TO GO REST FOR A BIT,

NII-SAN.

BONDAGE

IMAGE OF A HIGH SCHOOL GIRL

B-

THAT DROPS THE SEXINESS BY HALF.

BUT WAIT, I'M NOT IN MY SCHOOL UNIFORM.

.....

I GUESS I BELIEVE THAT THAT PERSON WILL COME TO SAVE ME...

...NO MATTER THE SITUATION,

AND FOR ME NOT TO FEEL NERVOUS...

"RIDICULOUS".

...THAT'S IT.

AND I HAVEN'T EVEN KNOWN HIM FOR A DAY YET.

HOW SHOULD I DESCRIBE THIS FEELING...?

"FUNNY"? OH, RIGHT-

Rare.

I NEVER THOUGHT I'D ACTUALLY SEE IT FOR MYSELF.

I KNEW IT TO BE A FACT, BUT THE PROCESS OF YOUR CHANGE,

"ALTHOUGH A NATURAL BEING, NATURAL YOU ARE NOT."

C... COME ON,

.....

THIS IS WHERE YOU JUMP IN AND SAY "IT'S SAWARABI... WAIT, AGAIN WITH THAT LINE~"

.....

THAT VOICE!

SAWARA-SAN!!

The one you know is Sawarabi Naguma. I am-

His brother.

My name is Sawarabi Hawatari.

THIS IS SO EMBARRASSING...

I TRIED TO CRACK A JOKE AND IT WAS THE WRONG PERSON.

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE BOY WHO WAS WITH US, KOJIKA-KUN?

B... BY THE WAY, UMM,

LET'S CHANGE THE SUBJECT.

I SEE...

AH... BUT WELL...

YEAH, I GUESS.

We killed him.

EH?

.....

!!

That composure. That abnormality.

And even though your enemy holds your life in the palm of their hand, you don't even shed a tear.

and though you just met, the kidnapper you shared conversations with was also killed;

your family was killed before your eyes.

Your schoolmate was used.

BUT YOU'RE TARGETING THE ZEROZAKI TO AVENGE YOUR LITTLE SISTER RIGHT, SAWARABI-SAN?

THIS IS, UHH... JUST TO BE SURE,

EH... UMM,

So this is a Zerozaki.

DOESN'T THAT MEAN THAT YOU STILL DON'T CONSIDER ME A ZEROZAKI?

BUT THE FACT THAT YOU KIDNAPPED ME AND HAVEN'T KILLED ME YET,

YOU SPEAK AS IF YOU CONSIDER YOURSELF A ZEROZAKI.

.....

ONCE WE'RE DONE WITH YOU, YOUR LIFE IS NO MORE.

BAIT...

All you are is bait.

THE REASON YOU'RE ALIVE AND HANGING IS SIMPLY TO LURE ZEROZAKI SOUSHIKI HERE.

NOT "AS IF", THAT IS WHAT WILL HAPPEN.

YOU SAY THAT AS IF SOUSHIKI-SAN WOULD JUST NATURALLY SNIFF HIS WAY HERE.

.....

THE MOST REPULSIVE THING ABOUT THE ZEROZAKI ISN'T THEIR MURDEROUS NATURE.

IT'S THEIR HABIT OF UNCONSCIOUSLY RESONATING WITH EACH OTHER.

AND THIS SAME PRINCIPLE ALSO ALLOWS THE PUPPETS TO TRACK THE ZEROZAKI.

THEY CAN EVEN GRASP EACH OTHER'S GENERAL LOCATION.

IT'S TRULY MAD.

THOUGH NOT AS STRONGLY AS YOU ALL, THEY'RE STILL ABLE TO SENSE THAT RESONANCE.

ALTHOUGH ARTIFICIAL, THE EXISTENCE OF PUPPETS IS LIKE THAT OF THE ZEROZAKI; IN THAT THEY HAVE LOST CERTAIN POTENTIALITIES, AND ARE AT A DEAD END IN LIFE.

"RESONANCE".

THAT'S ...

YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME?

THEN DO YOU BELIEVE YOU HAPPENED UPON THAT MAN BY CHANCE?

SO YOU BELIEVED THAT NON-SENSE?

ACCORDING TO MY YOUNGER BROTHER, AT THE TIME,

TH- THAT WAS...

AND WHEN HE APPEARED TO SAVE YOU AT YOUR CONDOMINIUM,

...BECAUSE SOUSHIKI-SAN SAW THE ADDRESS ON MY STUDENT ID.

BUT ABOVE ALL ELSE, YOU SHOULD HAVE SENSED SOMETHING YOURSELF.

EVEN IF YOU AREN'T BOUND BY BLOOD, IT'S AS IF-

You were not at your written address, but on the roof.

!!

You already have a close relationship... A feeling as if you are real family.

IT'S SIMPLY A DISPO-SITION.

THAT'S ALL THERE IS TO THE ZEROZAKI.

THAT ISN'T ANY EMOTION OR LOVE OF ANY KIND.

BUT DON'T MIS-UNDERSTAND, LITTLE GIRL.

But that man likely genuinely believes it to be love, and without a doubt, he will come to save you.

NOT TO MENTION, HE'S A RATHER CONFIDENT GUY.

SO HE'LL PROBABLY COME BY ALONE.

AND THAT WILL BE WHEN,

The "worst" will meet his demise.

MY, MY...

WHO WOULD'VE THOUGHT SHE'D ACTUALLY BE KIDNAPPED?

HOW FUNNY.

AND HIS EXAM WAS JUST ABOUT TO BEGIN, TOO... WHAT A SHAME.

I WONDER IF THIS IS KOJIKA-KUN'S BLOOD.

LOOKING AT THE AMOUNT OF BLOOD LOST, HE WON'T LAST LONG.

WELL, I'M SURE SHE'S SAFE FOR THE MOMENT.

AND THE ONE IN QUESTION, IORI-CHAN...

IN THAT SENSE TOO, IT WAS RIGHT TO SEAL HER ARMS.

IT WOULD BE POINTLESS IF SHE WEREN'T ALIVE AS A HOSTAGE.

IF SHE WAS KIDNAPPED, RATHER THAN MURDERED,

IF ALL GOES WELL, BOTH OF MY PROBLEMS MIGHT GET RESOLVED ALL AT ONCE.

AS LONG AS SHE DOESN'T CARELESSLY RESIST, SHE SHOULD BE able TO AVOID ANY UNNECESSARY INJURIES.

WHAT'S MORE, WHILE SHE'S CAPTURED, I DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT HER INDISCRIMINATELY KILLING PEOPLE ALL AROUND TOWN THE MOMENT I TAKE MY EYES OFF HER.



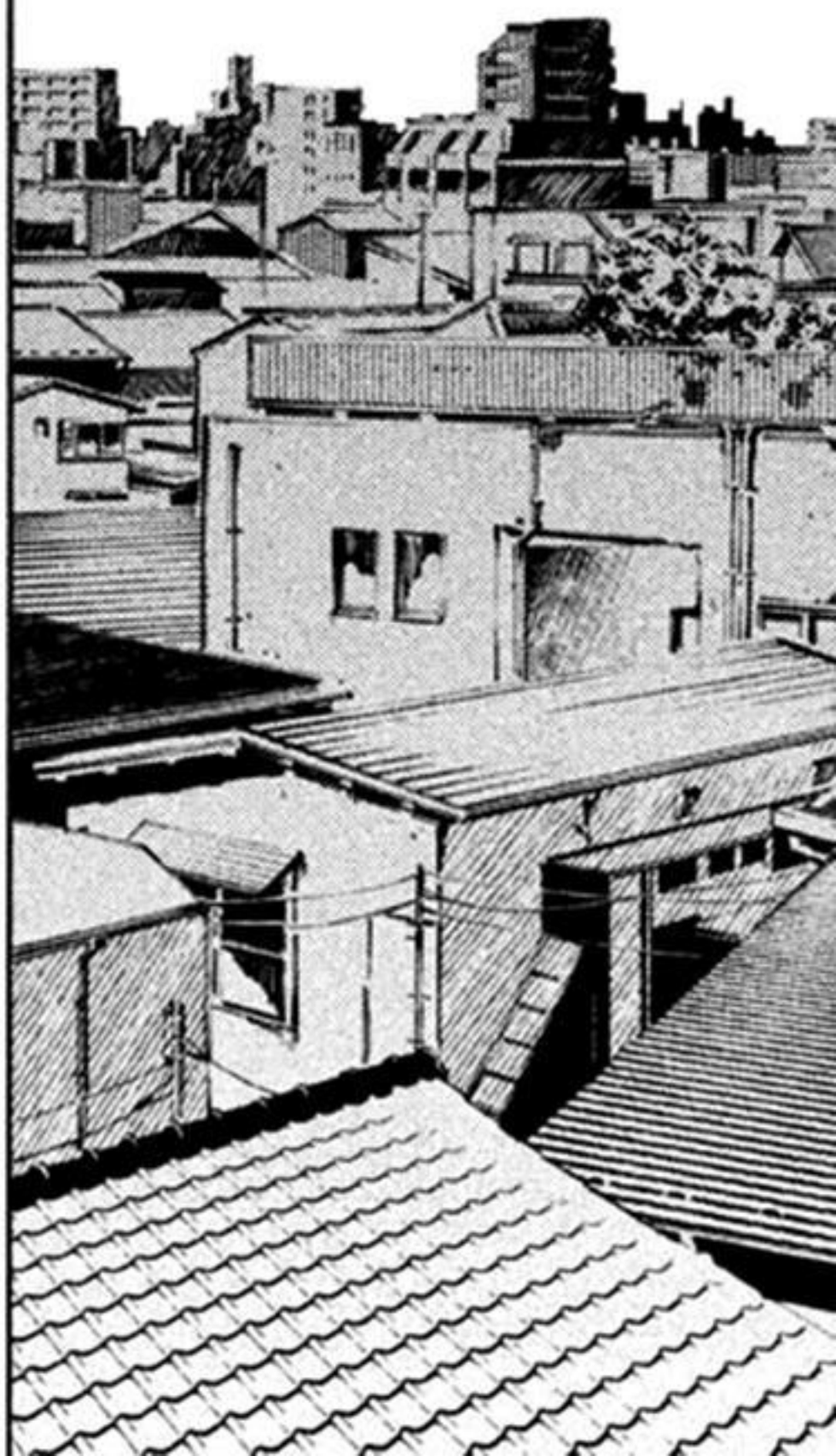

IF YOU INSIST ON OPPOSING THE ZEROZAKI UNTIL THE VERY END,
VERY WELL, SAWARABI-KUN,
Ufufu,







I'LL SETTLE THIS WITH MY BLADES.



AND I HAVE TO DO SOMETHING BEFORE IORI-SAN COMPLETELY TURNS INTO A ZEROZAKI.

TCH...

WHAT KIND OF KIDNAPPER LETS THEIR TARGET GET KIDNAPPED BY SOMEONE ELSE?

!?

WHA-

THERE'S SOME-THING THERE...

I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S BECAUSE I'M NEAR DEATH, BUT MY SENSES ARE GETTING SHARPER.

THIS FEELING...

DON'T TELL ME,

THIS GUY,

IF I HAD TO CHOOSE, I'D SAY HE'S CLOSER TO IORI-SAN.

MIND RENDER...

NO...

WHAT DO I DO...?

IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE HE'S BEEN FOUND BY THE PUPPETS YET.

ZEROZAKI!

The Zerozaki, the Sawarabi are searching for!

The homicidal monster with the tattooed face!

LUCK'S ON MY SIDE.

HAHA...

WHO WOULD'VE THOUGHT THIS SORT OF CARD WOULD JUST COME DANCING MY WAY...

THAT'S WHY-

I'M SURE THIS GUY'S WORTH PLENTY MORE THAN IORI-SAN WHO'S ON THE VERGE OF BECOMING A ZEROZAKI!

I DON'T KNOW WHY HE'S IN A PLACE LIKE THIS, BUT-

I'LL EXCHANGE THIS GUY'S HEAD FOR IORI-SAN!!

OH?

10 YEN?!

Lucky-

UNLIKE THE MURDEROUS NAMES OR THE CURSED NAMES, I DON'T HAVE A FAMILY, NOR ANY SORT OF TALENT OR DISPOSITION. NOT A SINGLE THING.

EVERYTHING ABOUT US IS DIFFERENT.

AND AT THE SAME TIME, THIS GROUP LIKELY HOLDS *FAMILY* MOST DEAR.

Zerozaki.

ALTHOUGH THEY ONLY POSSESS THE DISPOSITION TO SIMPLY "KILL PEOPLE",

EVEN AMONG THE MURDEROUS NAMES, THEIR EXISTENCE IS MOST FEARED, AND MOST AVOIDED.

THAT'S WHY,

I WANTED TO GIVE YOU,

THE FREEDOM TO CHOOSE SOMETHING FOR YOURSELF.

FOR ME, WHO HAS ALWAYS MADE MY OWN DECISIONS.

IT DEFINITELY SEEMS LIKE A LIFE DEVOID OF FREEDOM.

HEY, IORI-SAN,

WHAT DOES IT FEEL LIKE TO BECOME A ZEROZAKI?

THIS IS THE CHOICE THAT I'VE MADE.

THIS SORT OF WILD BEHAVIOR ISN'T COOL, BUT I DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME, DO I?

TATTOO-FACED HOMICIDAL MONSTER,

THINK OF THIS AS KARMA AND GIVE YOURSELF UP.

This is my answer!!

MAN...

It's a giza juu*!

!?

LOOK, THIS 10 YEN I PICKED UP JUST NOW.

TL NOTE: LIT. JAGGED 10. TEN YEN COIN MANUFACTURING BETWEEN 1951-1958 WHICH IS TREATED LIKE A COLLECTIBLE.

I'M GONNA TREASURE THIS.

!

WELL

HOW DO I PUT THIS?

I DON'T KNOW IF YOU TARGETED ME KNOWING WHO I AM OR NOT, BUT-

CHE... I KILLED HIM... IT'S 'CAUSE YOU WERE GIVING OFF SUCH AN ODOR OF BLOOD TOGETHER WITH ALL THAT MURDEROUS INTENT.


LUCK WAS NOT ON YOUR SIDE.

So ridiculous.

AH,

WAIT- I WAS IN THE MIDDLE OF BEING ON THE RUN.

INSTEAD HANGING AROUND LEAVING FOOTPRINTS,

I GOTTA HURRY AND STEAL ANIKI'S* SCISSORS AND RUN FOR IT.

*T/N: LITERALLY MEANS BIG BROTHER. CAN BE USED IN FAMILY-LIKE ORGANIZATIONS FOR SOMEONE OF A HIGHER RANK.

MAN,

AHH, I SEE...

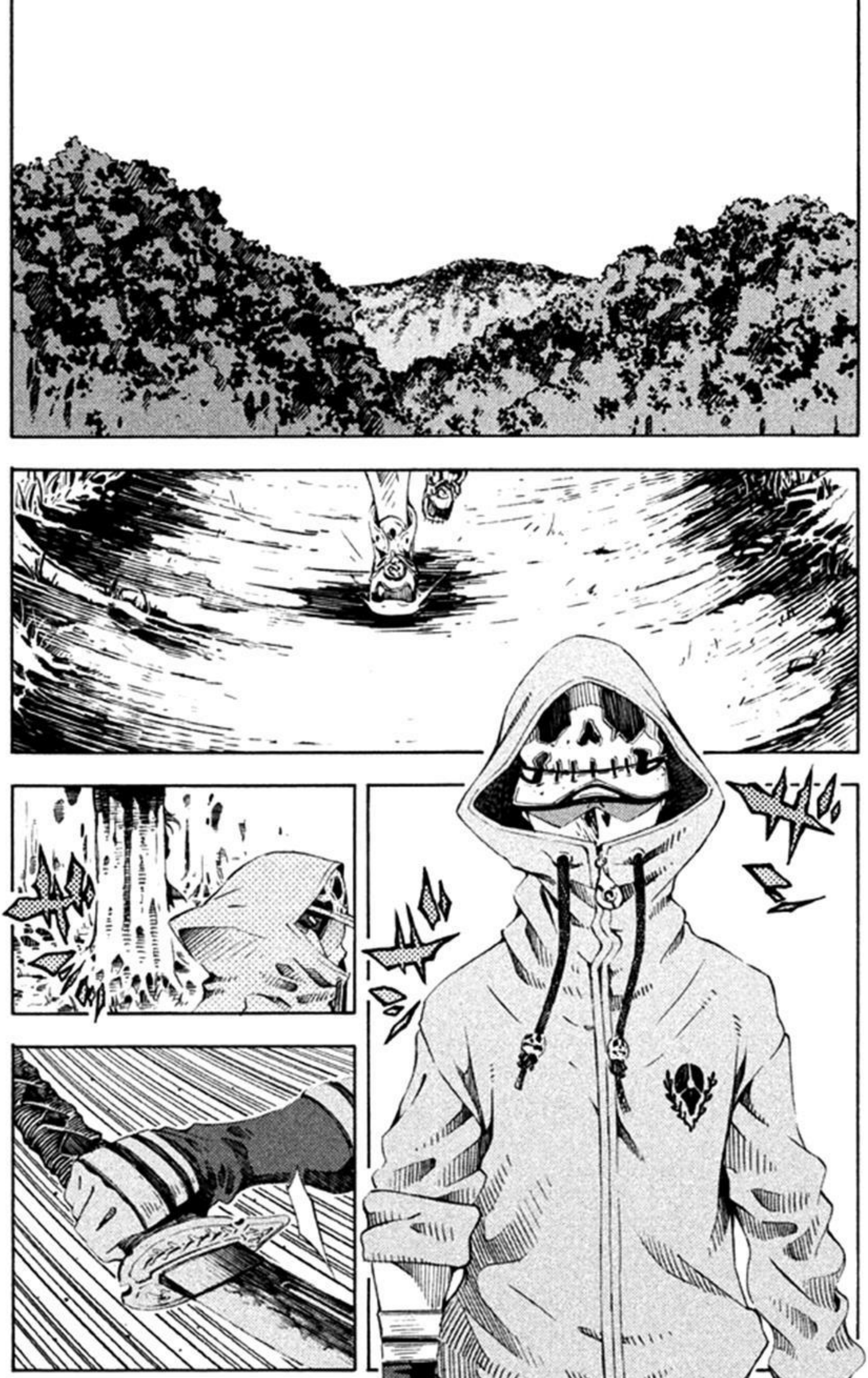
SO THIS IS WHAT SAWARABI WAS TALKING ABOUT...

MEETING THEM TO BEGIN WITH IS YOUR UNDOING.

THE ZEROZAKI BRING DEATH TO ALL THOSE INVOLVED WITH THEM.

SO THAT-

Is the concept they call "evil".



HAH.

SO... YOU CAME.

AND TO DO THAT,

THAT WHICH IS UNFAIR MUST BE RECTIFIED.

WITH THE SAWARABI CURRENTLY MISSING THEIR LITTLE SISTER, IT WOULD BE OVERWHELMINGLY UNFAIR FOR THEM TO SUDDENLY GO AGAINST MIND RENDER, RIGHT?

HEY NOW,

THAT'S QUITE THE GREETING.

.....

Undertaking any challenge is my creed.

I'M GRATE-FUL.

AS LONG AS I GET WHAT I CAN GET...

NONE OF IT MATTERS.

COME ON... DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

YOUR REASONS OR SITUATION DON'T MATTER TO ME.

INDEED-

THAT'S FINE AS WELL...

THE "STRONGEST" IS LIKELY THE ONLY OPPONENT FOR THE "WORST".

ZEROZAKI SOUSHIKI NO NINGEN SHIKEN VOLUME ② END

① Zerozaki Soushiki no Ningen Shiken

And there you have the 2nd volume of the comic version of "Zerozaki Soushiki no Ningen Shiken". I'm sure readers picked up the signs from the rushed death of Tsuge Jion in the 1st volume, but this volume is where we genuinely start to diverge from the original light novel. When I say "diverge", it kind of gives the feeling of a multi-ending scenario type game. But if you were to ask what the difference was between a light novel and a game, thinking about it from a light novelist's perspective, I would say it's whether or not there is a divergence. If the ability to present everything (and in this case, I mean "everything" the producers can think of) is the strong point of games, then I believe the strong point of light novels is avoiding such a divergence. And so, when a book that was once published is released as paperback, I don't revise developments or rewrite characters. But on the other hand, if I said I didn't think at all about a different future for this tale, that would be a lie, or maybe me just being pretentious. Which is why I very much enjoyed reading this "Ningen Shiken" with a divergent future from the original light novel.

For reference, when I recall the time I wrote "Zerozaki Soushiki VS Sawarabi Naguma" in the light novel, it made me think "Man, Soushiki's cruel." That "he kills you even if you pass the human exam." The moment Soushiki said "die by my hands" and stabbed Naguma with his scissors, I truly thought Naguma was a goner. But he survived. That was the same for both the original light novel and the comic version, but it really made me think his "ability to survive" was amazing and that "wow, characters can be amazing".

Well, when I recall things like that, and after getting to know Sawarabi Naguma, I definitely can't "rewrite" him now. So before even considering a divergence, I think I have to establish the fact that I can't rewrite the same character the second time around. In other words, this "Zerozaki Soushiki no Ningen Shiken" is not a remake, but a comic version with a new story. I look forward to its future developments.



② Mind Render

Clearly, these scissors can be split during a serious fight. Eh, that kind of makes me feel like he should do that from the beginning, but maybe there's something of Soushiki's aesthetics to that. Speaking of which, I get the feeling that it's officially established somewhere that "Zerozaki Soushiki is stronger when he doesn't use Mind Render." Now, I'm sure some people question why he even uses such a puzzling lethal weapon such as those huge scissor, but I'm pretty sure that reason wasn't written in the original light novel, so that will remain a mystery for now. It's possible that the reason for his use of large scissors as a lethal weapon might be revealed in this comic version (don't hold me to it).

③ Naginata

There's this thing called a ginata* reading. I'll give you an etymological example. There's a sentence that reads "Benkei swung the naginata." It's possible for this sentence to end up being read, "You know, Benkei, he swung the ginata." Now this would make you go "what's a 'ginata'?" and get you wondering what this mysterious lethal weapon was. This line from the story of Musashibo Benkei* probably isn't too familiar, so I'll put this quip aside now. But another famous example would be "Please take your clothes off here."* It's not clear whether it's actually referring to your clothes or your shoes. But because it's called "ginata reading" and not "naginata reading" it's a bit tricky.



Actually, I wonder if that would lead to the creation of a weapon called a "ginata". Kanji-wise, it would be "frolic" and "knife".Anyway, the naginata. This seems to be the strongest weapon for him to wield. They say it has 3 times the reach of a sword, but I wonder how many times it really is. But it's strength really is the fact that you can strike the legs.

*T/N: GINATA READING IS BASICALLY WHEN YOU PUT A BREAK IN THE SENTENCE AT THE WRONG PLACE, CAUSING THE MEANING TO CHANGE. JAPANESE DOESN'T USE SPACES IN TEXT, SO YOU JUST HAVE TO KNOW WHERE A WORD ENDS AND BEGINS. BUT IF THE SENTENCE IS MOSTLY COMPOSED OF HIRAGANA, IT CAN BE AMBIGUOUS AT TIMES, WHICH IS ONE REASON WHY KANJI IS IMPORTANT. MUSASHIBO BENKEI WAS A 12TH CENTURY WARRIOR MONK.



④ Beanie

Mutoh Iori-san wears one. It's established that she doesn't take it off, even in summer. The reason is unknown, but maybe later in the comic version (shortened).
But wait, she had it off in the 5th chapter of this volume.
When she was in the bathtub, that's right!

Fashion-wise, I was happy when she wore street clothes in chapter 5. In the light novel, she was captured while in her school uniform, so there wasn't a chance to see her in street clothes.

A change of outfits, including the hat.
It makes me think that one of manga's strengths really is the fact that you get to see characters in different visual aspects.



⑤ Hanamaki Kojika

Kidnapper.
An original character for the comic version of "Zerozaki Soushiki no Ningen Shiken". I was surprised that he met a crueller end than I was thinking. I thought "this development would be impossible for the original light novel!", but after thinking about it for a while, it was pretty much the same for the characters in the original work, too.
The fact that his weapon is a kendama perfectly matched his world view.
Now, I'm starting to think it's odd that Kojika-san never made an appearance in the original light novel.

⑥ Murdering Name

There was a certain amount of explanation in this volume, so I won't be adding to it, but I'll write as much as I can remember about this term itself. First of all, this term did not first appear in "Zerozaki Soushiki no Ningen Shiken". I believe the first time was in the Zaregoto Series. The term "murdering name" appeared while I was describing Zerozaki Hitoshiki in the light novel where he first made an appearance, "Kubishime Romanchisuto: Ningen Shikkaku, Zerozaki Hitoshiki". Something like "I'm sure no one would call themselves a "murdering name" for fun."

It was over 10 years ago, so it's impossible to remember clearly. But when I think about "Ningen Shiken" as a whole, and this naming in particular, I don't think I could think all this up as I am right now. As a novelist, I'd like to think I've improved in these 10 years, but on the other hand, as a novelist, I guess I have to admit there are intuitions I've lost during these 10 years, too. So actually, I believe that when reading a comic version or working on a paperback version and looking back on my old work, it's important to learn from my past self.



⑦ Cursing Name

Something to pair with the Murdering Name.
This is a first in the "Ningen Series".
Originally, as a novelist, I used to obsess over character names, but what made me first give characters to the names themselves, I think is when I was coming up with the "family names" of the "7 Murdering Names" and "6 Cursing Names".
From all the names I thought up during my 10 years as a novelist, when I thought about which of those might be to the best, and my choices probably were affected by how excited I was at that time, I believe "Zerozaki Soushiki" is one of the stronger names. As for characters in "Ningen Shiken", I like names like "Sawarabi Hawatari" and "Tokinomiya Tokei" because they give off a vibe of what the characters are like and they're not ordinary. I'd like to try and continue to name characters this way.
As reference, from my excitement while writing the "Past Questions", there were three names I thought of, that as the novelist Nishio Ishin, made me think "man, that was pretty good". These are from outside of "Ningen Shiken".

1. Sorakara Kuu (Himei Den)
2. Numachi Rouka (Hanamonogatari)
3. Kushinaka Choushi (Bukimi de Soboku na Kakowareta Sekai)



I'd like to create a character name dictionary some day. Even for a long while after appearing in the original light novel and in "Ningen Shiken", this "Cursing Name" was one category completely shrouded in mystery. But auspiciously, they appeared in one of the final tetralogies, "Zerozaki Hitoshiki no Ningen Kankei: Zerozaki Soushiki to no Kankei".Again, I think it's an interesting coincidence that it was in "Zerozaki Soushiki to no Kankei", but I guess might be pretty obvious.

⑧ So Ridiculous

Zerozaki Hitoshiki's favorite phrase.
This phrase was given birth to pair with the narrator's favorite phrase of "I'm just kidding, though" in the Zaregoto Series. Somehow, this "pairing", whether good or bad, I think is something of my writing style. I just love pairs with complete opposite personalities. But I think the basis for that was growing up reading shonen manga, plus something to do with the mystery novel Tantei to Joshu. If I express something or emphasize something, I want to express or emphasize the opposite right after. I'm sure this is why I wanted to write the "Ningen Series" after writing the "Zaregoto Series". Even though I'm talking about myself, this is an objective conjecture.If I say it the other way around (I say things like this), once I get one concept, it's the same as thinking of both sides for me. But if I wrote just one, I feel I'd be asked whether I have a policy or not. But it's my policy not to be a person that answers that not having a policy is my policy.





⑨ Zerozaki Hitoshiki

And so, he made his appearance. The young Zerozaki. He really does look scary, visually. Now, the fun part is waiting to see his role. No wait. His role is the fun part. So, look forward to volume 3.
And Sawarabi Yumiya, who never made an explicit appearance in the original light novel, will be making a visual appearance, too.

※収録されている内容は、作品の執筆年代・執筆された状況を考慮し、
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零崎双識の人間試験(2)

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ゼロザキソウシキ
3

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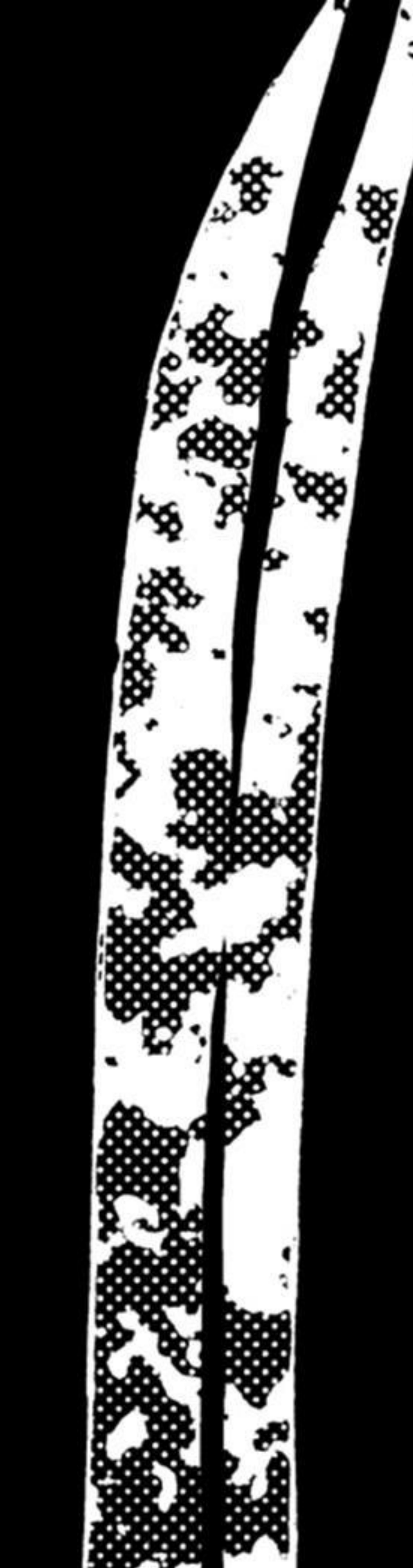
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ゼロザキソウシキの人間試験



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A LITTLE BEFORE THE PRESENT TIME...

...IN THE MOUN-TAINS OF A CERTAIN PRE-FECTURE.

Hii

Hii

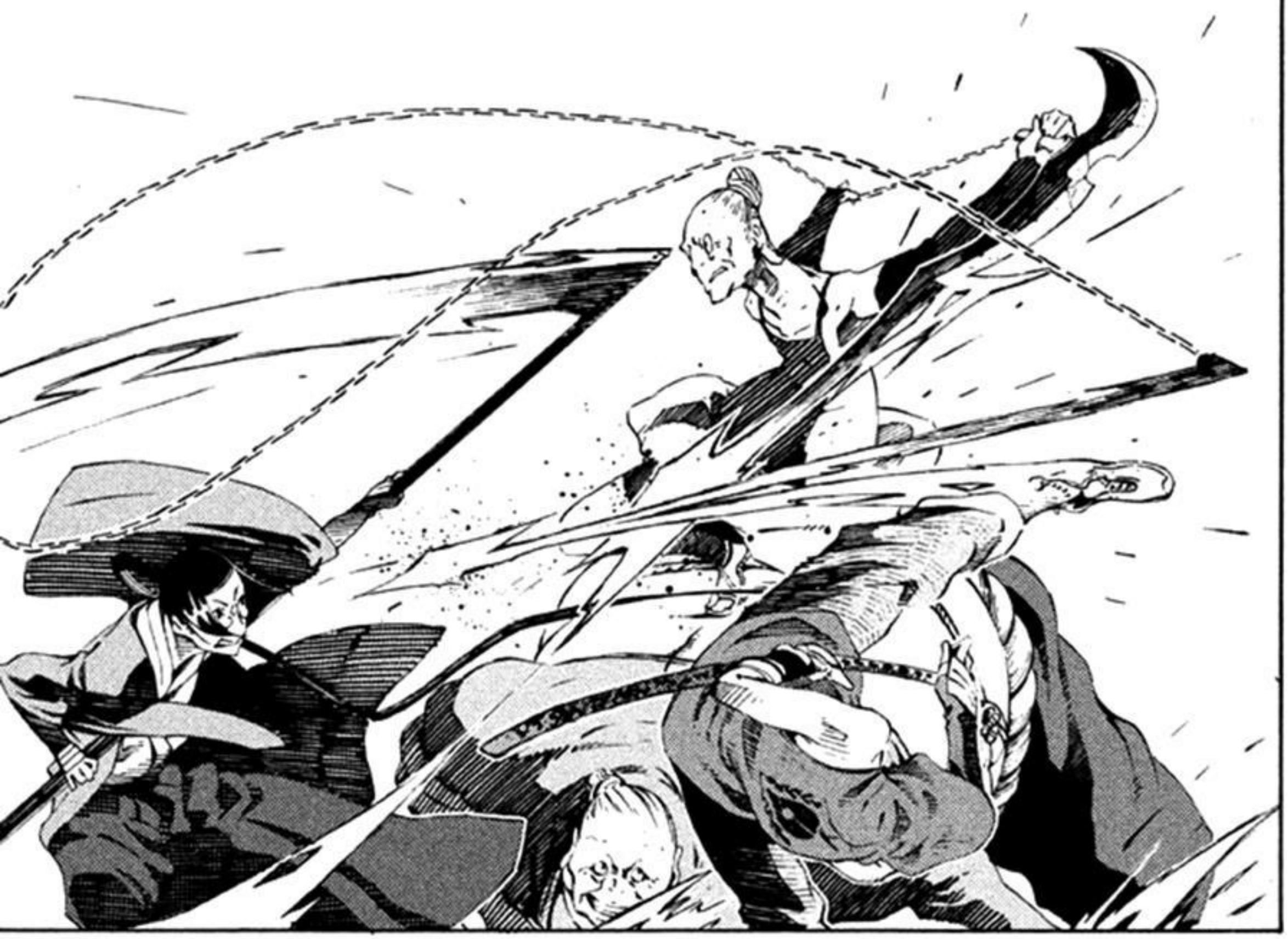
Hii

QUESTION 9



QUESTION 9















I'M PAYING GOOD MONEY HERE!

HURRY UP AND TAKE CARE OF THOSE HITMEN, YOU DIMWITS!

Y- Y- Y- YOU'RE LATE! WHAT WERE YOU DOING?!

FORGET IT.

NII-CHAN... CAN WE KILL HIM FIRST...?

HEY, OLD MAN,

GET OUTTA HERE IF YOU DON'T WANNA DIE.

HII

DON'T COMPLAIN IF YOU GET DRAGGED INTO THIS AND THEN GET YOURSELF KILLED.

YOU THINK IT WAS AN INSIDE JOB, NII-SAN?

BODY-GUARDS...? NO... THESE GUYS ARE ALSO PROFESSIONAL PLAYERS, AREN'T THEY?

THE FACT THAT HE HIRED THESE GUYS MEANS THE INFORMATION GOT OUT...

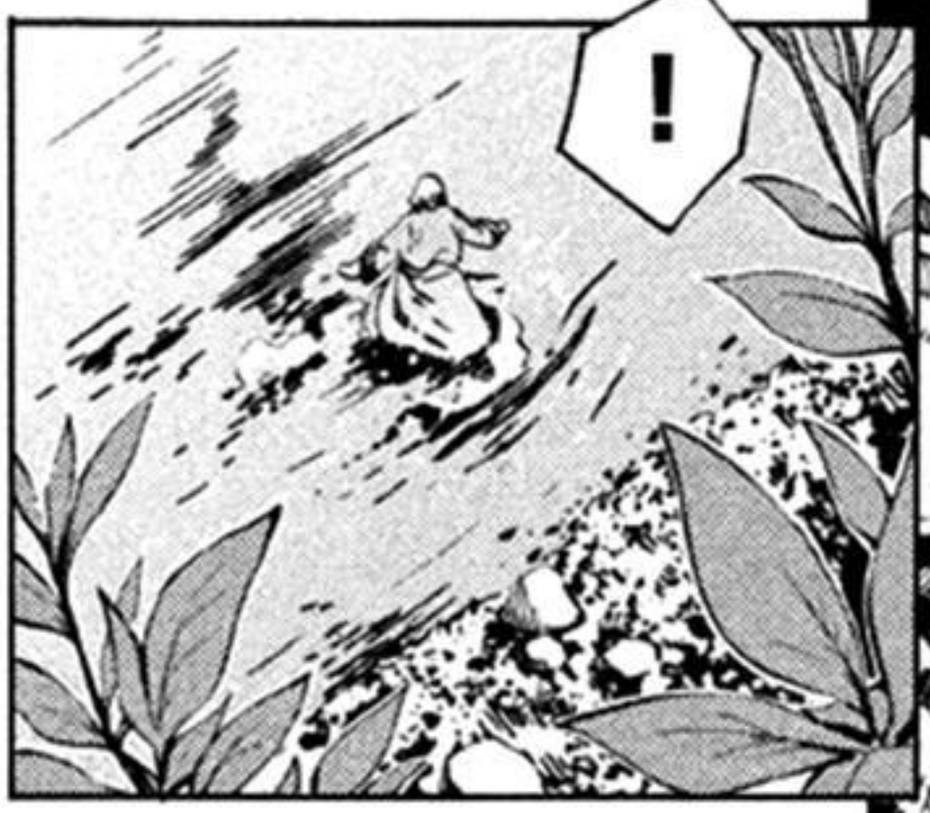
.....

WELL,

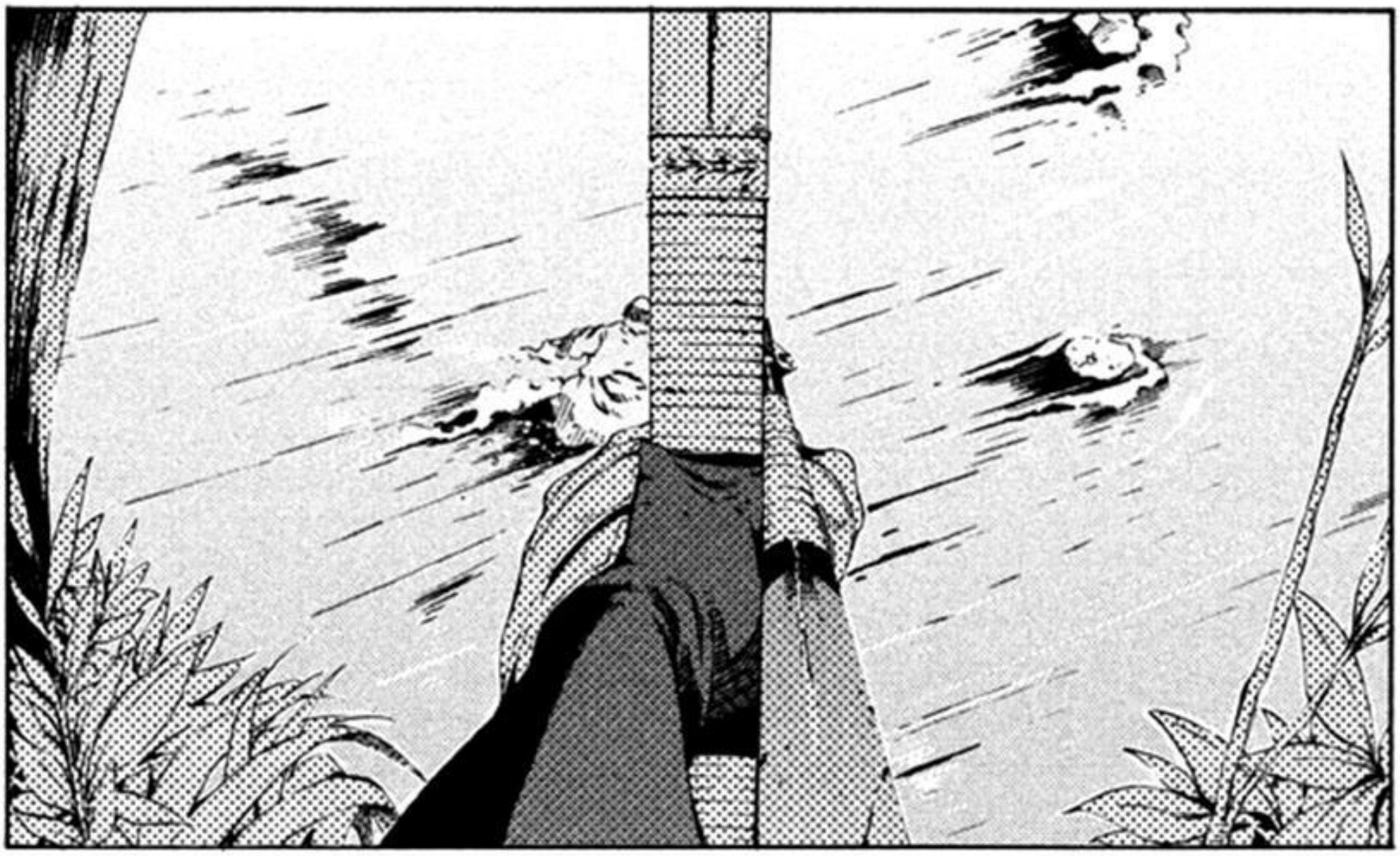
As for the escaped target, I suppose we can leave him,

To our beloved little sister, Yumiya-san.



















KYAHH!

A...

...SNIPER?

IF I DON'T TAKE HIM DOWN HERE, I WON'T BE ABLE TO STAY WITH MY BROTHERS...

IF...

EVEN IF I HOLD NO GRUDGE ...

I MUST KILL...!

THAT'S THE ONE THING I CAN'T ALLOW.

IF I MAKE A MISTAKE, IT BECOMES MY BROTHERS' FAILURE, TOO.

THE THREE OF US ARE ONE.



NI-

NII-
CHAAN!

A PRO SHOULDN'T BE ACHING FROM LOSING A COUPLE OF ARMS!

COME ON-

!

I'M GONNA BEAT THAT GUY TO A PULP FIRST, SO HANG ON A SEC!

NII-SAN!





















LOOKS LIKE OUR SIBLING COMBO WAS MORE POLISHED.

And that includes our looks.

GASP

OH, YUMIYA-SAN, WELCOME BACK.

AND THE TARGET?

KYAH.

Good girl.

MM...

P... PLEASE,

THAT'S OUR LITTLE SISTER.

U- UMM,

HAWATARI NII-SA-

Hah

STOP TEASING ME,

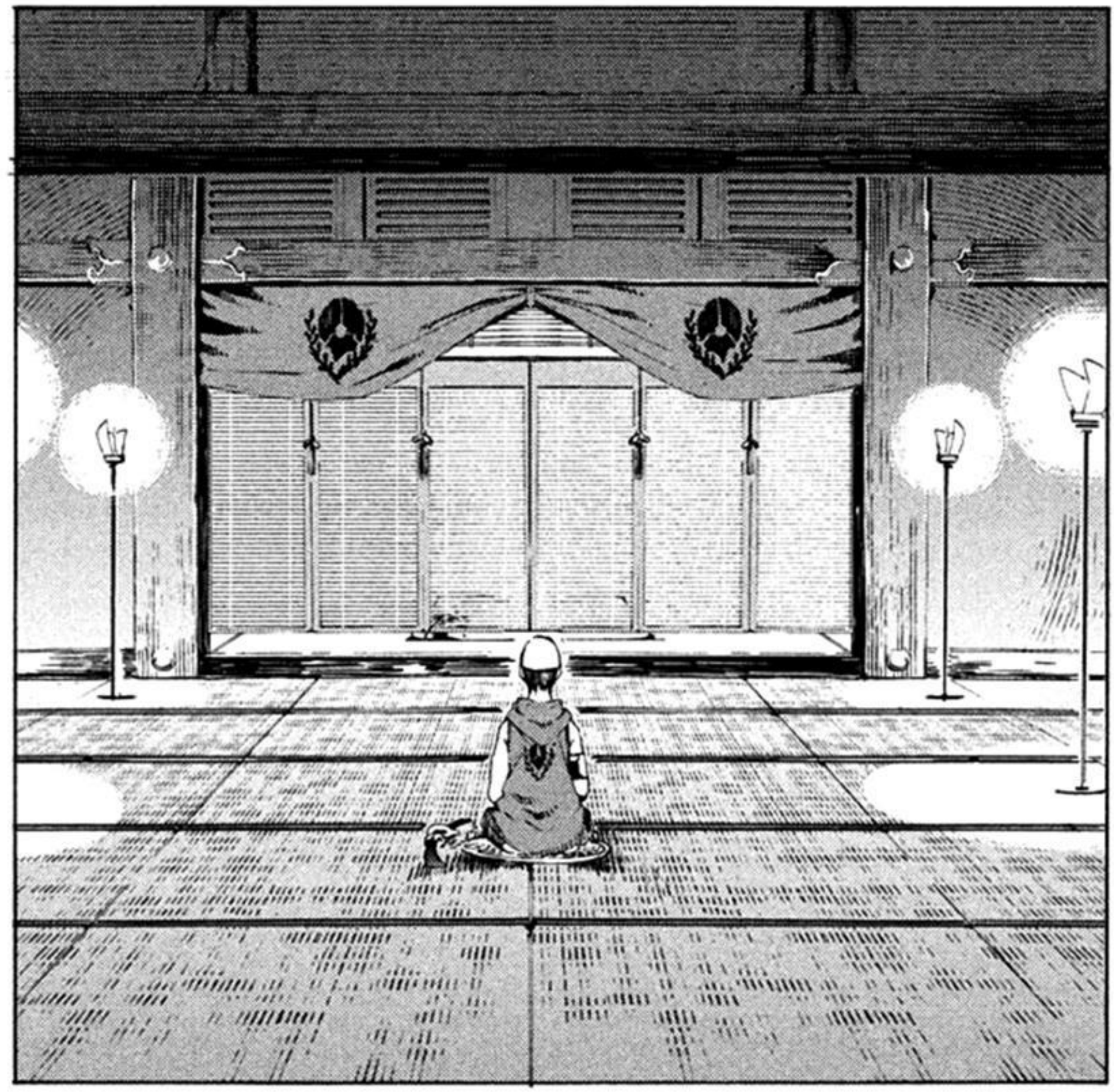
NAGUMA NII-SAMA...

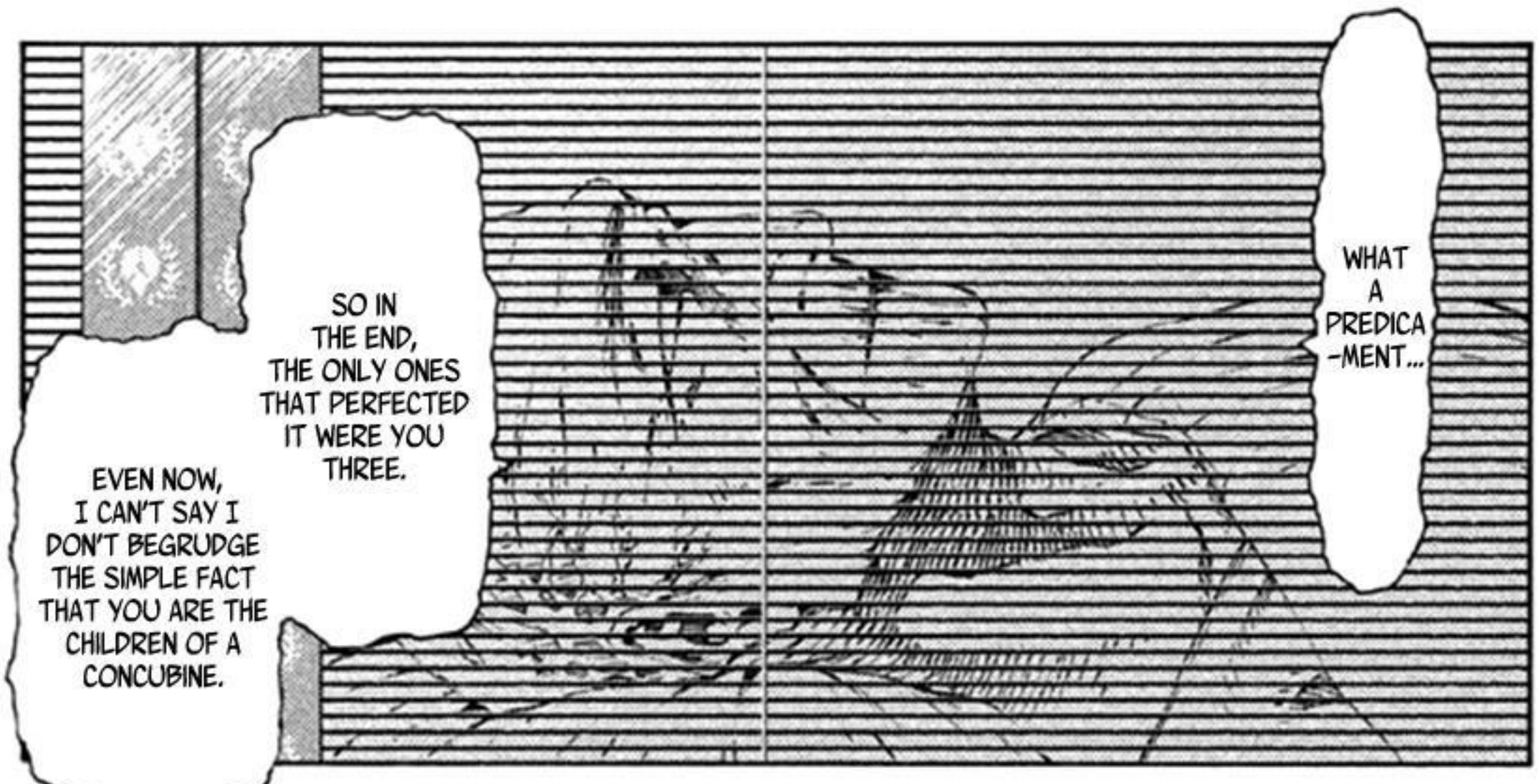
AH,

WAIT NII-SAN,

HOLD ON.

Let us return together.




SO IN THE END, THE ONLY ONES THAT PERFECTED IT WERE YOU THREE.
EVEN NOW, I CAN'T SAY I DON'T BEGRUDGE THE SIMPLE FACT THAT YOU ARE THE CHILDREN OF A CONCUBINE.
WHAT A PREDICA-MENT...

I EVEN BELIEVE IT'S MORE THAN JUST A PIPE DREAM FOR US TO BECOME THE GREATEST SAWARABI IN ALL OF HISTORY.

AS LONG AS I HAVE YOU THREE, I WON'T BE OUTDONE EVEN BY THE ELITE OF THE MAIN NIOUNOMIYA HOUSE...

LISTEN, HAWA-TARI...

WHICH MEANS...

AND GUIDE THE SAWARABI.

YOU BECOME THE NEW HEAD,

ONCE THE NEXT MISSION IS COMPLETE,

HEE~

THE HEAD SAID THAT?

DOES THIS MEAN WE THREE SIBLINGS WILL BECOME SAWARABI'S TOP DOGS IN BOTH NAME AND REALITY?

.....

UH...

UMM...

ARE YOU WORRIED, YUMIYA-SAN?

N... NO, THAT'S NOT...

HAWATARI NII-SAMA WILL BE TAKING ON THIS NEXT JOB ALONE, CORRECT...?

I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO...

FROM HERE ON OUT-

Hah!

IT'S JUST...

It is our time.

YES... HAWATARI NII-SAMA,

PLEASE, TAKE CARE.

I DON'T WANT IT TO BE THE THREE OF US...

HAWATARI NII-SAMA... HONESTLY...

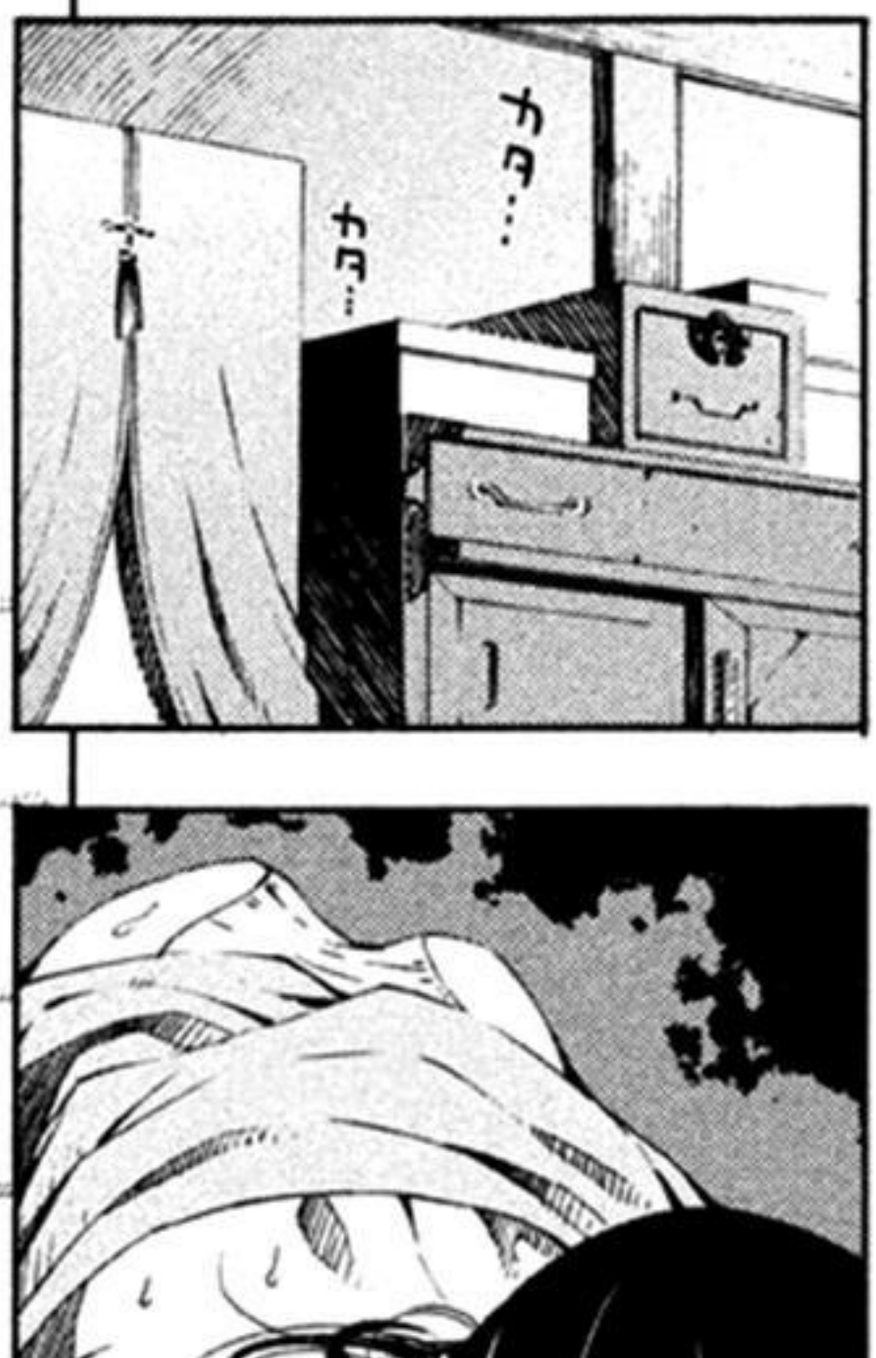
SO MUCH, I...

TO BE SEPA-RATED.

I DON'T WANT THE THREE OF US,

I WANT TO BE ONE,

WITH NII-SAMA....







Haa-

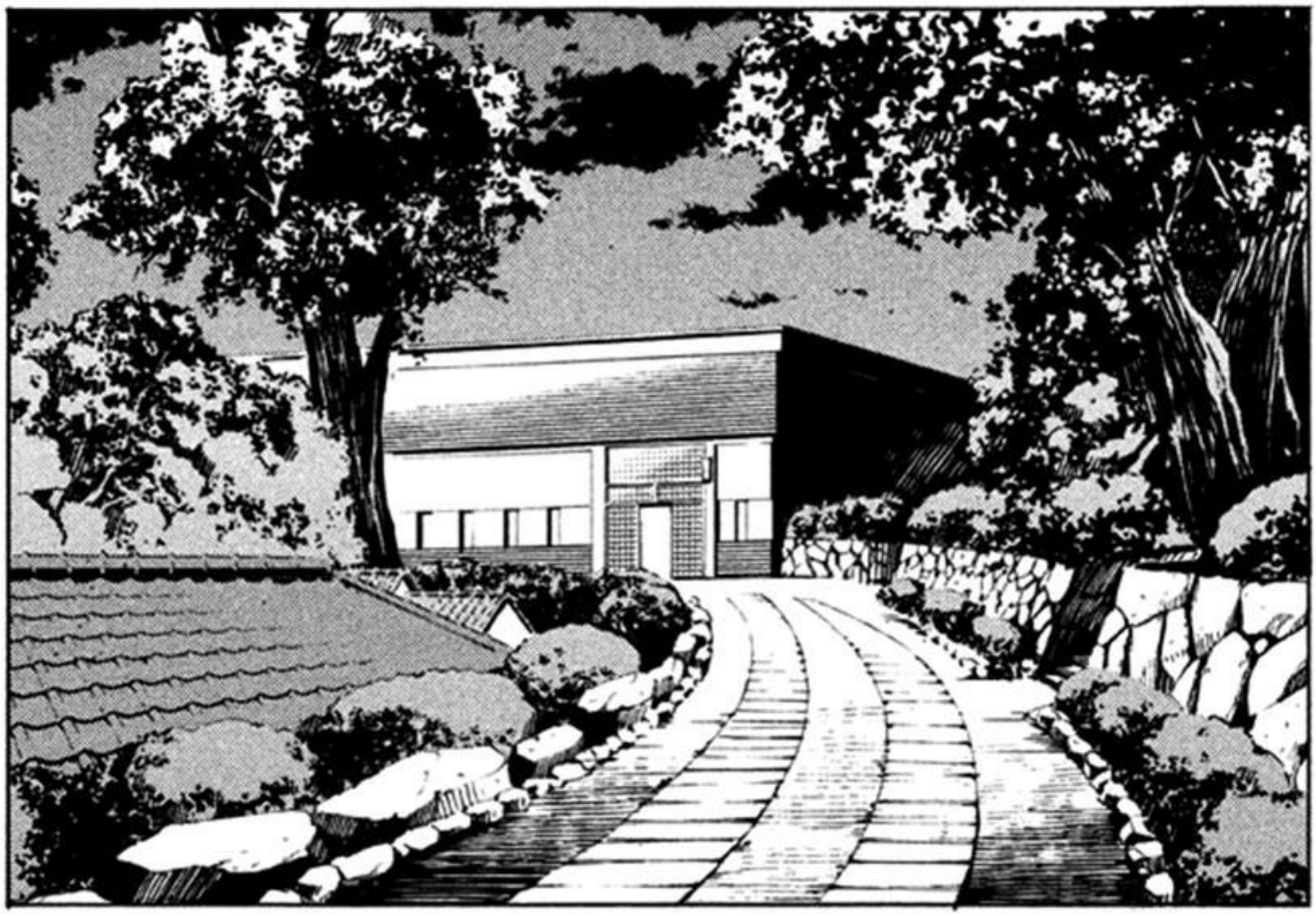
Haa-

AT THE VERY LEAST, NII-SAMA...

EVEN IF I KILL IT... EVEN IF I CONTINUE TO KILL THIS DESIRE,

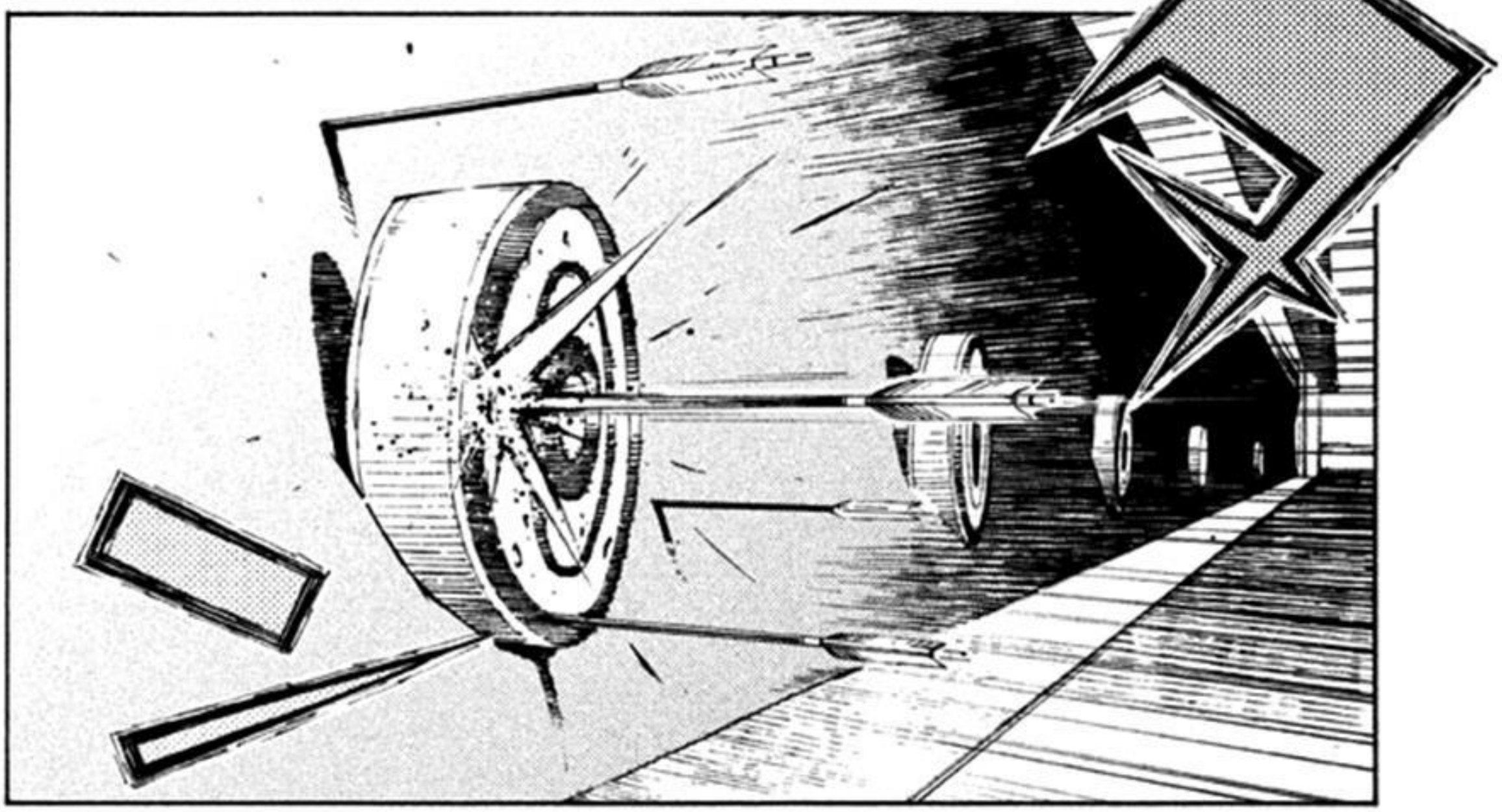
IF IT WILL NEVER BE FULFILLED...

BY YOUR HANDS...










.....


WHY ARE YOU HERE?
NAGUMA NII-SAMA,


YUMIYA-SAN,


CAME TO CHECK ON MY LITTLE SISTER.
JUST-

.....

ARE YOU UNABLE TO SLEEP FROM ANXIETY?

IT WILL BE THE START OF *OUR TIME.*

AND ONCE HE DOES THAT, AS NII-SAN SAID

NII-SAN WILL SETTLE THINGS QUICKLY AND RETURN BEFORE YOU KNOW IT.

NO NEED TO WORRY ABOUT A JOB OF THIS LEVEL.

.....

NO ONE WILL BE ABLE TO COMPLAIN.

NAGUMA NII-SAMA, I...

DON'T KNOW ANYMORE AT THIS POINT...

AND WE'LL LIKELY CONTINUE TO MURDER PEOPLE FOR THE REST OF OUR LIVES.

WE WERE CREATED TO MURDER PEOPLE...

WE'VE BEEN MURDERING PEOPLE ALL OUR LIVES...

WE MUST KILL OUR-SELVES IN ORDER TO STAY TOGETHER

AND KILL OTHERS TO LIVE.

WE WON'T STUDY A THING, OR CHOOSE ANYTHING, OR EVEN BE ALLOWED TO ESCAPE.

What does it mean... to live...?

What do you think it means to die...?

What does it mean to kill...?

...SO,

THAT AGAIN...

YUMIYA-SAN,

ARE YOU STILL BEING DRAGGED DOWN BY WHAT HAPPENED BACK THEN?

THERE CAN BE NO COMPARISON.

THAT WASN'T A QUESTION OF LIVING OR KILLING.

IT WASN'T THAT SORT OF STAGE.

.....

DID YOU NOT FEEL ANYTHING AFTER WITNESSING SUCH AN EXISTENCE, NAGUMA NII-SAMA?

USING THE INCIDENT FROM THAT TIME AS A SPRING, WE GREW IMMENSELY.

THAT'S AN UNDENIABLE FACT.

THERE'S NO NEED TO FEAR A THING.

We were perfected in that manner.

We have no choice but to kill.

.....

IF THEY SAY THAT'S OUR JOB, OUR DUTY AND OUR MISSION;

THEN WE HAVE NO OTHER WAY OF LIVING, RIGHT?

THAT DAY...

THE NIGHT LOOKED JUST LIKE THIS, DIDN'T IT...?








ALRIGHT ...
THEN LET ME TEACH YOU...
YOU'RE PART OF THE BRANCH FAMILY AND YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW ABOUT ME?!
GRAAA

SLAUGHTER MAGIC GROUP, NIOUNOMIYA TROUPE,

MANEATER NIOUNOMIYA RUMU.

I WILL NOW EXECUTE MY MISSION.

QUESTION 9 END

ZEROZAKI SOUSHIKI NO NINGEN SHIKEN

by NisiOisiN and SHIOMIYA Iruka



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QUESTION 10

NIOUNOMIYA IZUMI?!

DURING YOUR PREVIOUS JOB?

YOU FOUGHT WITH HIM?

WITH THE NIOUNOMIYA? ...THAT'S ONE PERSON BUT TWO SIBLINGS.

I...

COULDN'T DO A THING.

.....

H... HOW WAS IT?

THE POWER OF THE MAIN HOUSE'S NEXT ACE.

THERE WAS THAT MUCH OF A DIFFERENCE ...

BEFORE HIS EXISTENCE, I WAS BROUGHT DOWN TO BECOME NO MORE THAN A SPECTATOR.

IF I WERE TO DESCRIBE IT, HE WAS THE LEADING ACT ATOP A STAGE.

WHY ..?

THAT MONSTER THAT NII-SAN ONCE FELT SUCH AN OVERWHELMING DIFFERENCE IN POWER FROM,

WHY IS HE HERE... ?!!

QUESTION 10

GYA HAHA

WHAT IS THE MATTER?!

DON'T JUST RUN AWAY.

COME AT ME MORE AGGRE-SSIVELY!

OH.

OH.

OH.

DON'T YOU THINK WE'RE WASTING TIME HERE?!

I HAD MY NAGINA-

DAMN IT... IF AT LEAST,

-TA.



YU...

YUMIYA-SAN!!

!?

D...

DID SHE GET HIM...?!

DIE

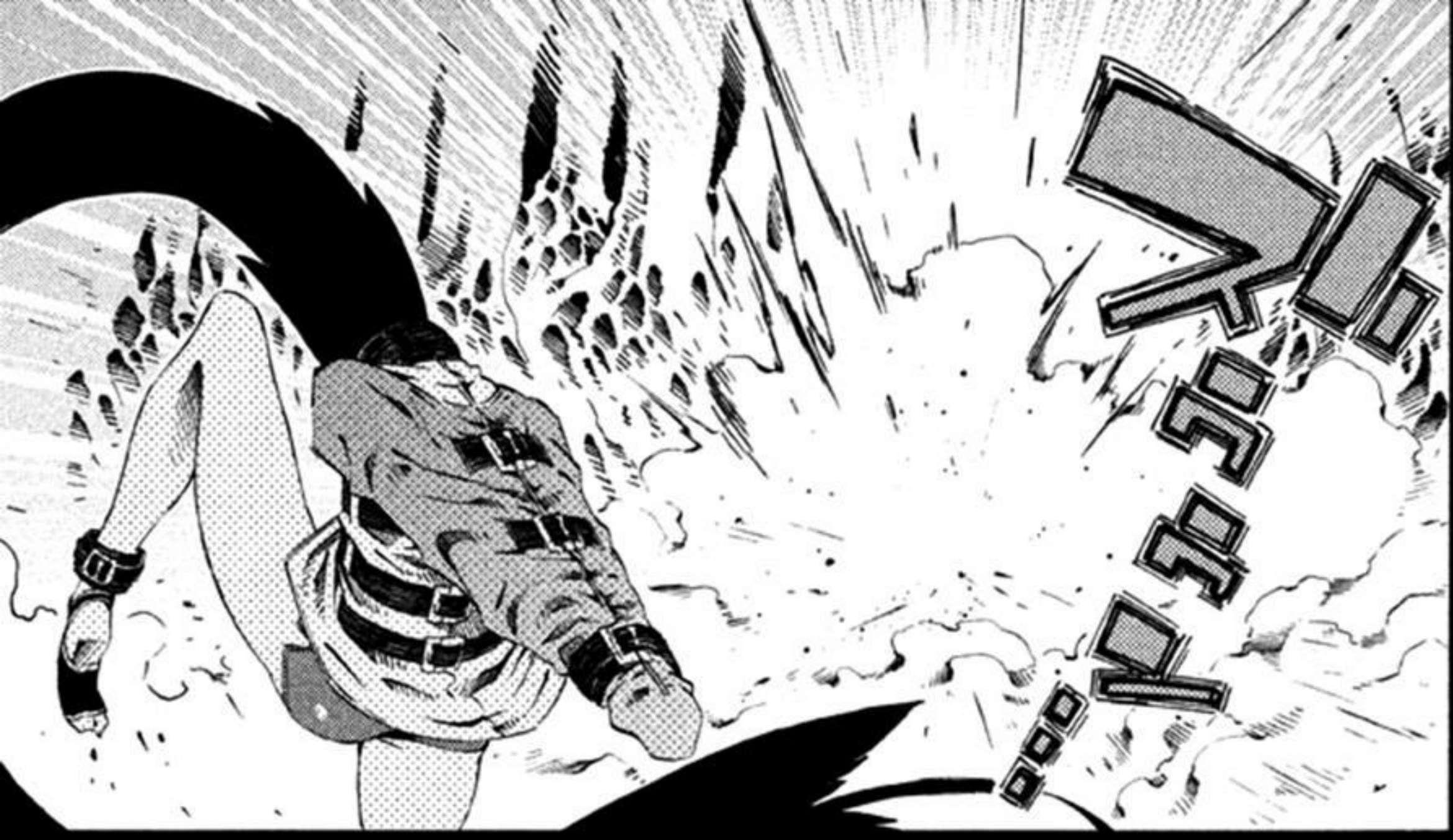
TOO BAD.

THIS... IS THE TRUE POWER OF THE MAIN HOUSE...

HOW..?

HE EVEN HAS BOTH HIS ARMS SEALED.

!!


ZUDO


YUMIYA-SAN!!


COUGH.
COUGH.







BEEP

BEEP
BEEP

!?

That's
one hour.

I SET MY SLAUGHTERING TO ONE HOUR A DAY.

THAT WAS PRETTY FUN, YOU TWO.

IS THAT,

YOUR LITTLE SISTER?

MISSION ...?

WHAT EXACTLY FOR...?

WHO KNOWS.

I DIDN'T ASK. AND EVEN IF I DID, WHEN IT COMES TO THAT PERSON-

YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY. I WON'T DO ANYTHING ANYMORE.

MY MISSION'S COMPLETE.

GYAHA.

Whether there's a reason or not, "it's all the same thing".

Is probably the answer I'd get.

PUTTING THAT ASIDE,

I HAVE A LITTLE SISTER TOO.

RIGHT HERE.

UNLIKE ME, YOU GUYS CAN CHASE AFTER THE SAME GOAL.

YOU CAN SPEND TIME TOGETHER.

ONE PERSON, BUT TWO NIOUNOMIYA SIBLINGS.

DUAL PERSONA-LITY...

IF YOU ASK ME, THAT'S SOMETHING TO BE SUPER JEALOUS ABOUT.

TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOUR LITTLE SISTER.

I'm pretty sure that nothing in this world-

Could replace her...

AND I NO LONGER UNDERSTOOD WHAT IT MEANT TO LIVE OR TO KILL IN THIS WORLD...

SINCE THAT DAY I WAS MADE AWARE OF SUCH AN EXISTENCE ATOP THE STAGE,

HOW-EVER...

THAT'S SOME-THING...

EVEN I DON'T UNDER-STAND.

THERE'S NO NEED TO UNDER-STAND.

IF WE EXIST AS STAGE SETTINGS,

HAVING BEEN CREATED TO KILL PEOPLE, THAT IS OUR ROLE.

.....

IT MIGHT NOT EVEN BE A DREAM TO SOMEDAY STAND ON STAGE.

WITH THE THREE OF US...

AS OF NOW, THE THREE OF US HAVE BECOME THE STRONGEST SAWARABI HITMEN IN HISTORY.


DID YOU SAY THE STRON-GEST?
THE STRON-GEST ...?

IF YOU'D GO AS FAR AS TO SAY THAT, THEN LET'S SEE WHETHER OR NOT YOU REALLY HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO STAND ON STAGE.

LET ME TEST YOU ...

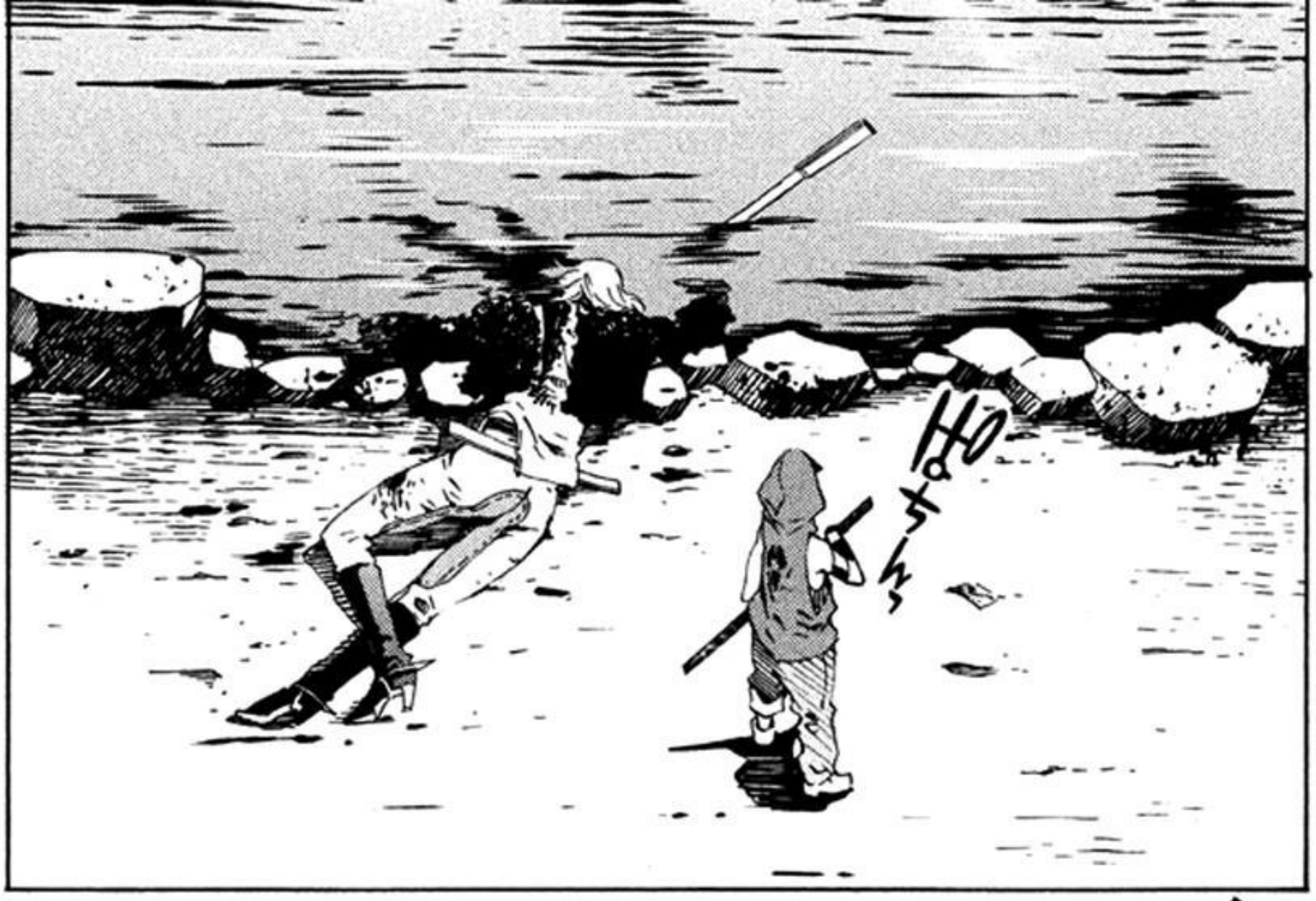
SHIFT

OH MY... A GUEST AT THIS HOUR.

YOU SEEM TO BE A RATHER ILL-MANNERED GUEST.

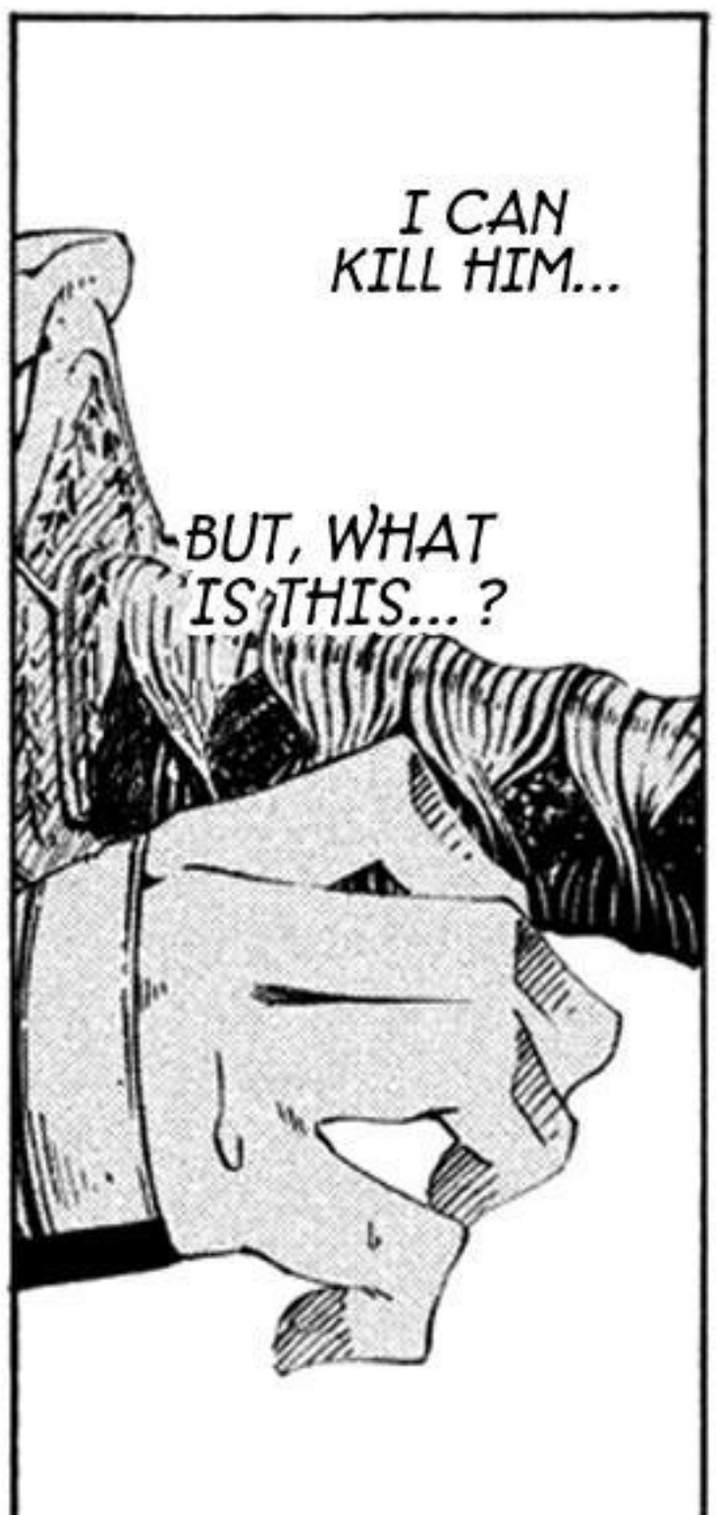
WHO ARE YOU EXACTLY ?

ZEROZAKI.


!!ひょ


ドカ




I CAN KILL HIM...
BUT, WHAT IS THIS...?


ドクン!!


THOSE GLASSES ARE NICE.

THIS GUY...

I MUSTN'T KILL HIM...

YOU...

WHO ARE YOU...?

"Who are you?"

HMPH.

THAT'S AN INCONSEQUENTIAL QUESTION, SAWARABI HAWATARI.

WHETHER I OFFER MY NAME HERE OR NOT,

IT'S ALL THE SAME.

YOU SEE, HAWA-TARI...

I AM GATHERING WHAT THEY CALL ODD ONES.

IN ORDER TO END THE WORLD,

7 "MURDERING NAMES" AND 6 "CURSING NAMES". THE TOTAL NUMBER IS A SIGN OF FATE. IT'S NOT BAD.

LET'S SEE, THERE ARE,

...13.

DO YOU NOT UNDER-STAND?

Hmph.

"WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?"

... WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

YOU ARE SUITED TO BE MY GLASSES, HAWATARI.

...I SEE.

SO FOR THE MOMENT, THE ONLY ONE I CAN INVITE IS YOU.

I WOULD HAVE BEEN FINE WITH INCLUDING YOUR YOUNGER BROTHER AND SISTER,

BUT IT SEEMS THEY WERE SERVED A MAGNIFICENT DEFEAT BY IZUMI.

YOU WERE BEHIND THE INCIDENT WITH MANEATER, AND THIS JOB AS WELL.

SO THEY WERE "EXAMS".

Hmph.

THAT'S NOT REALLY HOW I'D LIKE TO VIEW THINGS; BUT IF YOU WANT TO PUT IT THAT WAY, THEN YOU SURELY DID "PASS".

HAVING SAID THAT,

THERE EXIST THOSE WHO ARE INDISPENSABLE, REGARDLESS.

WHETHER YOU'RE STRONG OR WEAK, SUPERIOR OR A FOOL, IT'S ALL THE SAME.

TO ALL THINGS AND ALL PEOPLE, THERE EXISTS A REPLACE-MENT.

HOWEVER, DON'T MIS-UNDERSTAND.

IT'S NOT YOUR SKILLS OR STRENGTH THAT I APPRECIATE.

That divergent existence of yours, which seems to have no possible alternatives,

That's what I appreciate.

YOU HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO PLAY THE LEADING ROLE YOURSELF.

YOU ARE NOT A MAN THAT SHOULD BE WHERE YOU ARE, ACTING AS SOMEONE'S REPLACEMENT.

IF YOU CHOOSE ME, THEN SURELY...

SAWARABI, LEAVE THE CONTINUATION OF SOMEONE ELSE TO YOUR YOUNGER BROTHER AND SISTER, AND STAND ON STAGE, HAWATARI.

I'M SURE YOU'VE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO MAKE ANY CHOICES OF YOUR OWN DURING YOUR LIFETIME.

YOU WILL,

FEEL GOOD...

IMPOSSIBLE...

OUR STAGES,

ARE MUCH TOO DIFFERENT...

NAGU-MA NII-SAMA...

SA... VE...

YUMIYA-SAN, RUN!!

BY NO MEANS...

WHAT A FOOLISH MISUNDERSTANDING IT WAS...

I... UNDERSTAND NOW...

Ahh!...

HAWATARI NII-SAMA... NAGUMA NII-SAMA...

YUMIYAAAAAAAAAA!!

WILL WE BE ABLE TO STAND ON STAGE.

QUESTION 10 END

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QC: Ell

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YUMIYA-SAN!!

QUESTION 11

YOU BAS-TARD!!

I'LL KILL YOU!!

QUESTION 11

OH

OH

INSTEAD OF KILLING ALL THE TIME, ONCE IN A WHILE-

IT MIGHT BE INTERESTING TO BE KILLED.

NICE.




!?
WHERE ARE YOU?! WHERE DID YOU GO?!
I'LL GIVE YOU SOME TIME...


MAKE SURE...
YOU COME TO KILL ME...


I'LL BE WAITING FOR YOU.

Haa

Haa

This much ...

Are you saying there's this much of a difference ...?

YUMIYA-SAN...?

...HAH.

YUMIYA-SAN!!

DO WE...

NOT EVEN HAVE THE RIGHT TO RISE TO THE STAGE YET...?

Nii-sama ...I'm sorry.

I... was a hin-drance.

I'll quickly get a doctor and-

It's okay... It's okay, Yumiya-san.

NOW...

AM HAPPY.

RIGHT NOW, I...

!?

IT'S ALL RIGHT, NAGUMA NII-SAMA...

I NO LONGER NEED TO KILL ANYONE.

I don't have to kill myself...

to act strong, or upright...

Yumiya...-san?

Others also told me I had superior abilities...

Until now, I told myself I had talent...

However, Nii-sama... I... we,

not by anything... or anyone-

With just that as justification, I've lived my life killing people...

I wasn't allowed to make any choices, but...

I believed that I was an existence that was chosen by something...

We were not all chosen...

What...

What are you saying...?

FOR THE THREE OF US WE CAN'T LOSE ANY ONE OF US.

OUR TIME HAS FINALLY COME...

We were oppressed by many, and we oppressed many others. We'll finally be in a position to obtain something...

Even though we were looked down on as a branch family,

didn't the three of us overcome that to get here...?

NO..

DON'T GO, YUMIYA!!

THIS IS JUST THE BEGINNING.

Ahh...

ムーン・ライト・・・

Yumiya...

Yumi...
ya...?



NOW... CHOOSE, HAWA-TARI.

.....

I will.

Place you on stage.

YOU ARE TRULY THE "WORST" MAN.

SUCH ARROGANCE.

.....

BUT BECAUSE OF THAT, YOU ARE ALLURING...

IT EVEN MAKES ME FEEL LIKE I WANT YOU TO INFLUENCE MY FATE.

THAT...

IS PRECISELY WHY-

I CHOOSE THE SAWARABI.

"I CHOOSE THE SAWARABI."

HMPH.

SO YOU CHOOSE *FAMILY.*

I WILL SEARCH FOR ANOTHER SEEMINGLY TROUBLESOME ONE AS AN ALTERNATIVE.

THAT'S FINE.

ONCE MORE,

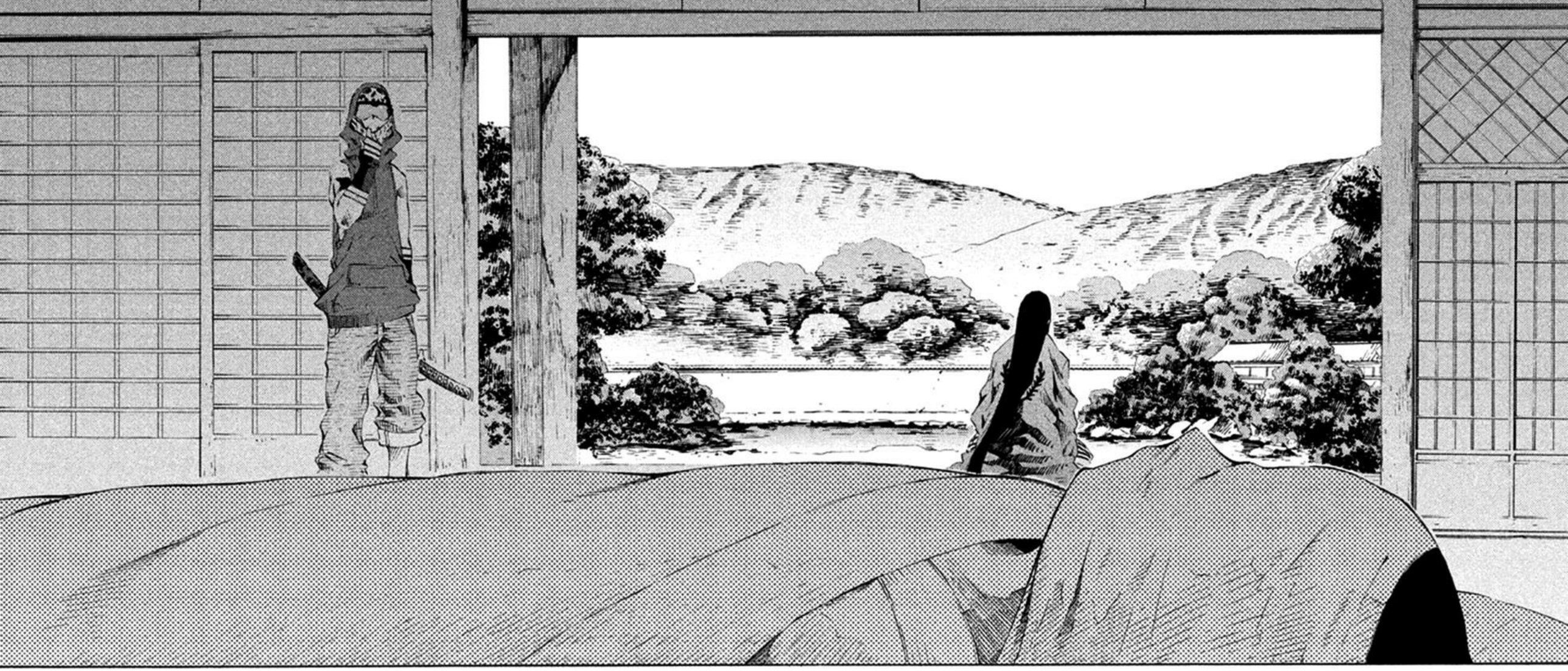
Family...
is it?

Family.

HA-

HAWA-
TARI-
SAMA!

YUMIYA-
SAMA IS-









WHAT..?

WHAT IS THIS..?

HAA... HAA...

GUIDE THE SAWARABI.

IT'S OUR TIME.

I CHOOSE THE SAWARABI.

!?

Nothing changes.

?

NI...

NII-SAN?!

EVEN IF WE END UP AS ONE PERSON,

THE SAWARABI NAME WILL CONTINUE TO EXIST AS HITMEN.

IT'S THE SAME AS BEFORE.

'FOR MY OWN SAKE, AS THE HEAD OF THE SAWARABI,

I WILL RAISE THE SAWARABI ONTO THE STAGE!

FAMILY...?

FAMILY, YOU SAY...?

NO!

!!

First, we kill the one who calls himself Zerozaki.

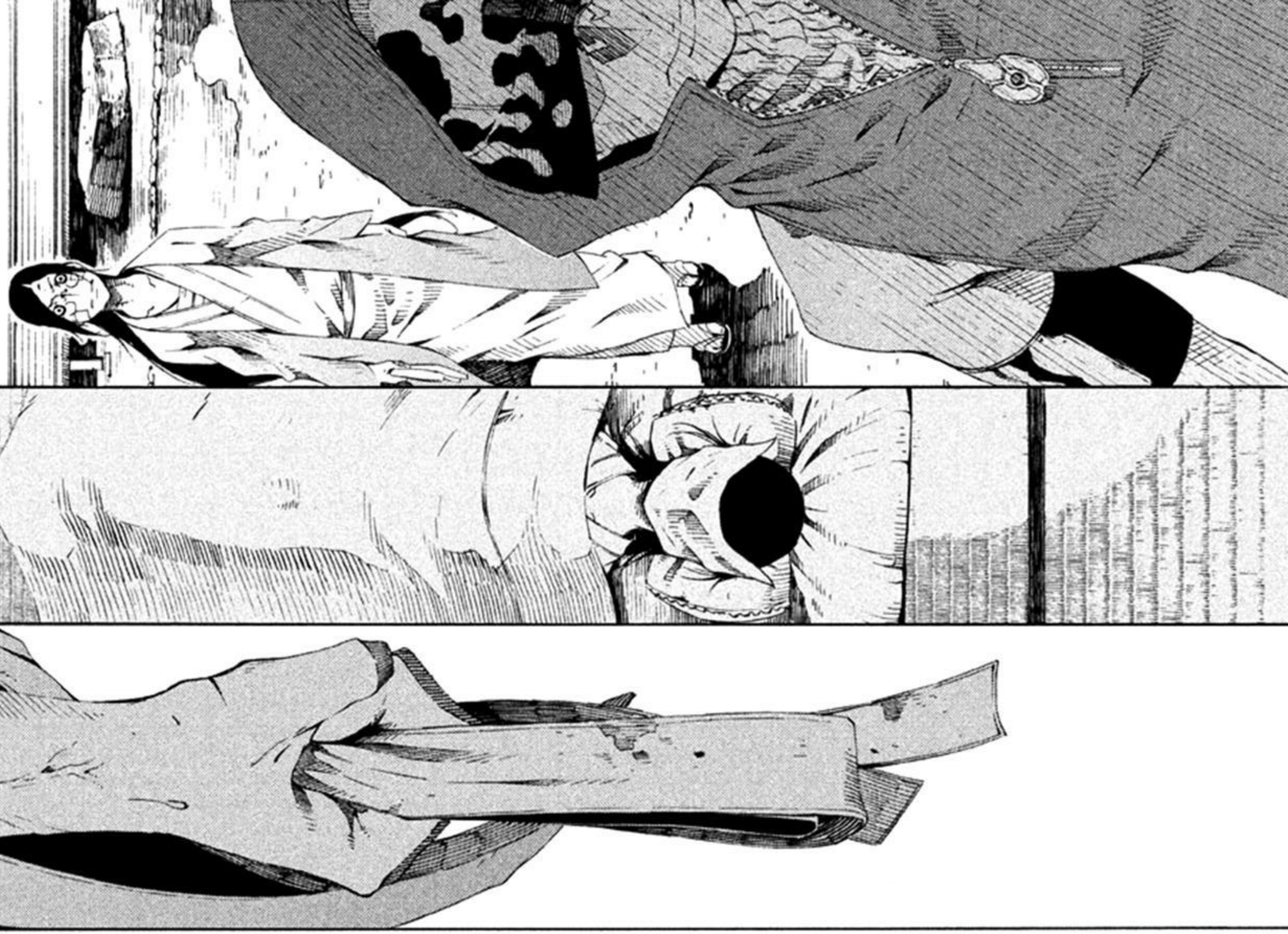
FIND YOUR RESOLVE, NAGUMA.

IF HE IS A REAL ZEROZAKI, WE WILL ERADICATE THE ENTIRE GROUP-

THERE IS NO ERROR IN THIS CHOICE.

WHETHER MAIN FAMILY OR BRANCH, IT DOESN'T MATTER.

AND TURN THEM INTO A STEPPING STONE FOR THE SAWARABI!



THAT'S RIGHT...

IT DOESN'T MATTER WHETHER WE'RE CHOSEN OR NOT.

PLEASE WAIT, YUMIYA-SAN.

WE WILL SURELY AVENGE YOU.

No matter what the method... No matter how dirty our hands get,

we'll drag them down from that stage.

FOR STARTERS, IF THEY'RE ON A DIFFERENT STAGE,

I will definitely find you.

And put an end to you life!

Wait for me, Zerozaki with the tattooed face.

-MAN.

WHAT IS THIS...?

IT'S LIKE HE GARGLED EYE DROPS...

THIS DEFT CUT,

THERE'S NO DOUBT IT'S ANIKI'S WORK.

BUT THE PROBLEM'S HERE-

This technique has too much of an amateur's smell to it. But it was someone who had enough skill to land a lethal blow with something like this...

This basically looks like it was an amateur homicidal monster.

The stab wound.

THE LETHAL WEAPON...

KAHAHA, SCISSORS, HUH...

THESE SHEARING SCISSORS?

BUT IT'S NOT ANIKI.

There was a third party here.

IN OTHER WORDS-

Then, Aniki removed the head as if he intended to erase this wound.

Helping..? No,

was he saving them?

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

SOMEONE THAT THAT ANIKI WOULD SAVE, HUH...?

WHA...

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

EH?

Sensei?

KAHAHA.

GOOD. I WAS JUST ABOUT TO DOUBT MY REASONING THERE.

EHH... I AM FOR THE MOST PART...

OH?

WEREN'T YOU AN INSTRUCTOR?

YEAH... BUT,

IT'S NOT LIKE I'M PLANNING TO ASK YOU, AS A TEACHER, TO GIVE ME DIRECTIONS IN LIFE OR ANYTHING.

RIGHT, SENSEI,

WHILE YOU'RE HERE, I WANT TO ASK FOR SOME DIRECTIONS.

... DIREC-TIONS?

ACTUALLY, I CAME HERE WHILE SEARCHING FOR MY ANIKI.

AND HE WEARS SILVER-RIMMED GLASSES WITH A MISMATCHING SUIT LIKE AN IDIOT.

HE HAS LONG AND SLENDER LIMBS LIKE AN IDIOT.

HE HAS SLICKED BACK HAIR LIKE AN IDIOT.

HAVE YOU SEEN HIM?

THANK YOU.

!

AH... THAT PERSON WAS HERE JUST THIS MORNING.

THIS MORNING !

HERE, AS THANKS.

I SEE, I SEE.

THAT'S PRETTY,

RIDICU-LOUS.

.....

KYAH!

TEN YEN...?

THE MORE I LOOK AT YOU, THE MORE YOU SEEM THE WAY YOU LOOK-

BUT MAN, YOU...

TH... THANK YOU VERY MUCH...

?

COME ON, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

AS YOU CAN SEE, I'M GENEROUS, GOOD LOOKING, AND FAMOUS.

RIGHT...

HA

.....

ORDI-
NARY?!

SO YOU WANT TO SAY I'M ORDINARY TOO, DO YOU?!

...HUH?

KAHAHA, "ORDINARY", HUH?

PUTTING ASIDE WHETHER SOMETHING LIKE THAT REALLY EXISTS OR NOT,

UNLIKE THE GUY THAT'S LYING ON THE GROUND THERE, THE FACT THAT YOU WEREN'T CHOSEN,

MIGHT UNEXPECTEDLY HAVE BEEN A FORTUNATE THING.

THAT'S ALL I WAS THINKING.

?.....

ALL RIGHT THEN.

Bye - bi.

ALSO,

HE WASN'T ONE OF OUR STUDENTS... WAS HE?

...I WONDER WHAT THAT WAS ABOUT...

THOSE PEOPLE...

I WONDER WHAT HE WAS DOING EXACTLY.

.....

?

THE GUY THAT'S LYING ON THE GROUND...?

HII!

AH..

KAHAHA.

WHAT SORT OF ANSWER WOULD YOU COME UP WITH IN THIS SITUATION?

LOOKS LIKE ANIKI'S STUCK HIS HEAD INTO SOME RIDICULOUS STUFF AGAIN.

Huh,

"Faulty Product"?

QUESTION 11 END

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Redraw p.156: Tx93
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QUESTION 12

IT'S ME.

UFUFU
...WHY
NOT?

IF ONE SIDE DIES, IT'S MINUS 1. IF THEY BOTH FALL, IT'S MINUS 2.

EITHER WAY, IT WORKS OUT FOR YOU GUYS, RIGHT?

YEAH...
TURNS OUT I'LL BE TAKING SOME REAL ACTION IN THIS TOWN.

INCLUDING THE SCHOOL AND CONDOS, I'LL LEAVE THE CLEAN UP TO YOU.

THEN I'LL LEAVE IT IN YOUR HANDS.

Ujigami-san

NOW,

HERE YOU GO.

THANKS FOR THE PHONE.

SHALL I GO RESCUE MY DEAR LITTLE SISTER?

AGAINST THAT FEMALE OPPONENT, WHO IS DREADFUL AS EITHER AN ALLY OR ENEMY-

SO HE'S COME.

.....

HOW WILL YOU ACT, MIND RENDER?

QUESTION 12

GAS STATION

A BARRIER IN A PLACE LIKE THIS...

.....

THIS IS REALLY ELABORATE THOUGH ...

DOES THAT MEAN THIS ENTIRE MOUNTAIN IS A KILLING FIELD?

THE FACT THAT THEY'RE BEING SO OPEN MEANS THIS ISN'T THE SAWARABI'S HIDEOUT AFTER ALL.

WELL EITHER WAY, IT'S PROBABLY A TYPE THAT CLEARS PEOPLE OUT OR INHIBITS AWARENESS.

AS FAR AS TO JOIN HANDS WITH TOKINOMIYA, THE ANTITHESIS OF THE SAWARABI'S EXISTENCE AS PURE HITMEN...?

WOULD THEY REALLY GO THIS FAR TO AVENGE THEIR YOUNGER SISTER?

THAT FOOLISH BROTHER GOT ME AND IORI-CHAN INVOLVED IN SOME RIDICULOUS BUSINESS HERE.

REALLY ...

THOUGH, I DO UNDERSTAND THEIR FEELINGS TOWARDS THEIR SISTER.

I GUESS A RE-EDUCA-TION IS IN ORDER.

ONCE YOU DECIDE TO KILL SOMEONE, NOT ONLY YOUR TARGET ENEMY,

BUT ALL WHO ARE RELATED TO THEM ARE TO BE KILLED. I'M SURE I TAUGHT HIM THAT...

.....

BUT,

I SHOULD BE GETTING CLOSER TO IORI-CHAN...

I'M REALLY STARTING TO GET TIRED OF THIS DULL PATH...

AM I NOT THERE YET?

...
CLOTH?

...WHAT IS THAT?

The younger Sawarabi sister who specializes in long distance attacks is dead.

IS IT AN ORDINARY RED CLOTH?

ufufu.

It's not like it's the red of Mankind's Strong-

RED...

RED, IS IT?

-EST...

HAA

HAA

!?

HA

YO...

HA

HA

YOU CALLED?

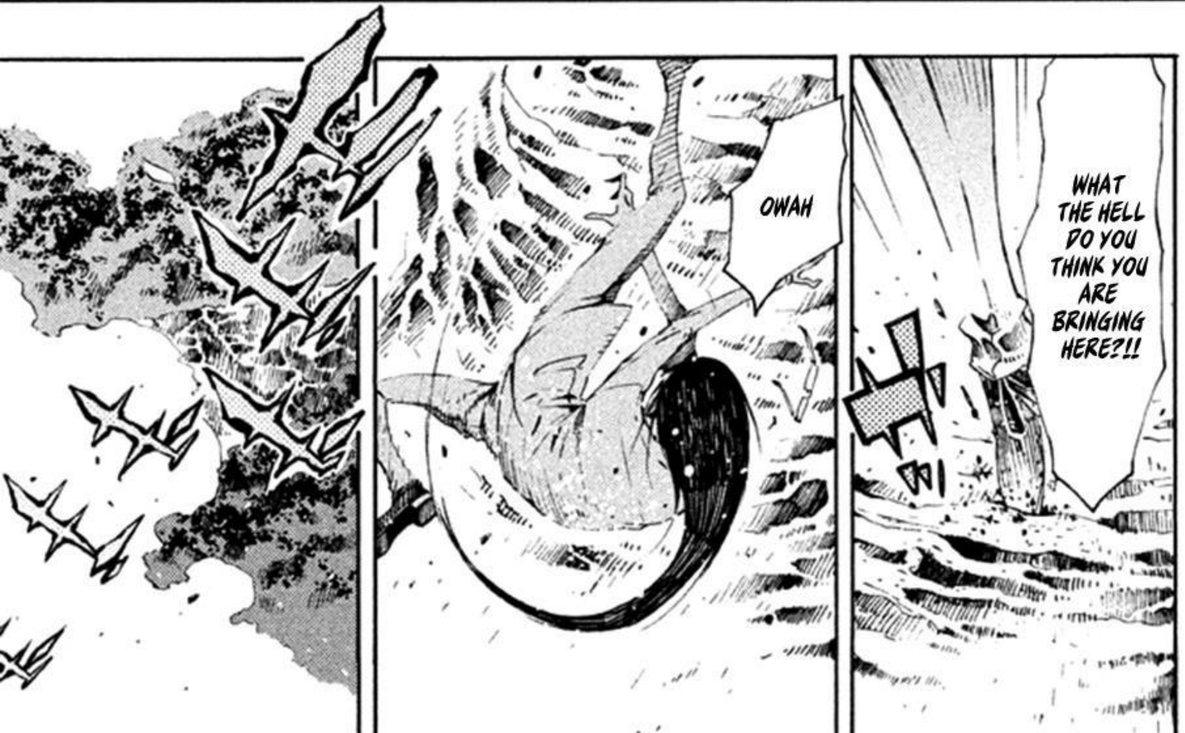
UOOHHH

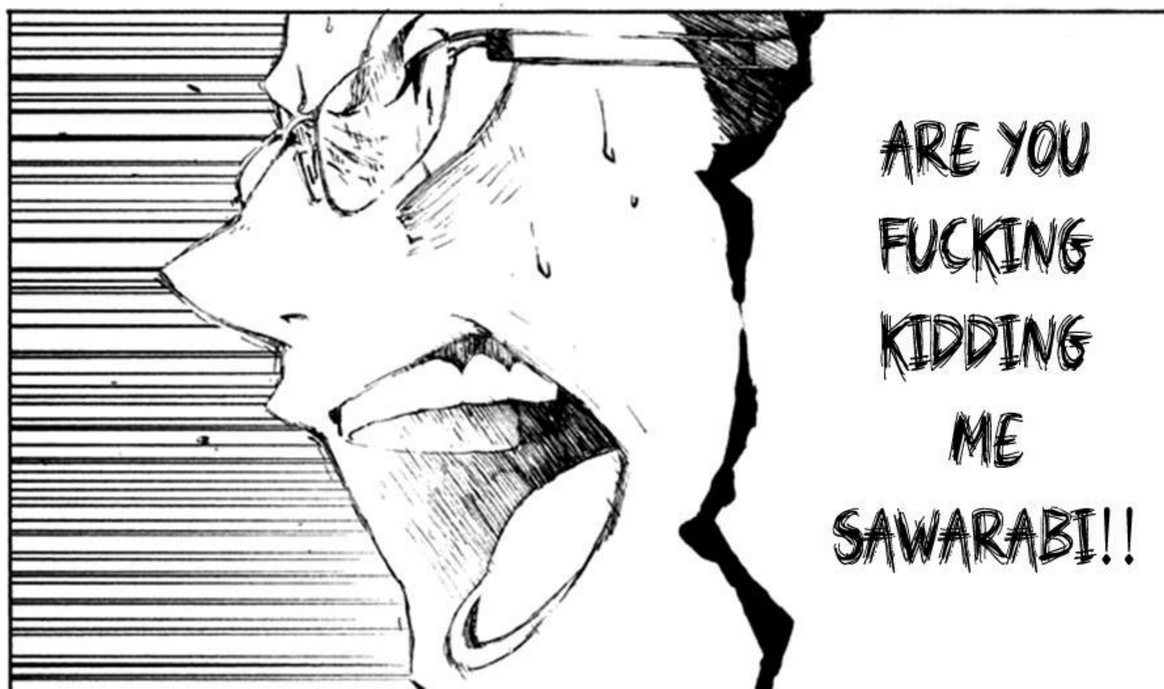
!

SHALL WE PLAY A GAME OF TAG?

ALL RIGHT.




OWAH
WHAT THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU ARE BRINGING HERE?!!


ARE YOU FUCKING KIDDING ME SAWARABI!!

ZeHH

Ze HH

ZeHH

DAMN IT.

THERE WAS NO BLOOD-LUST OR ANY PRESENCE.

THERE WAS NO ONE IN THE AREA.

WHY?

WHY?

WHY?

WHY?

WHY?

WHY?

WHY?

WHY?

WHY?

WHY?

WHY?

WHY?

WHY?

WHY?

WHY?

WHY...?

WHY...?

WHY?

WHY WON'T YOU LIGHT?

ISN'T A ZIPPO A TOOL FOR LIGHTING, HUH?!!

HAA...

HAA...

HAA...

IT'S ALL RIGHT.

IT'S ALL RIGHT ...

CALM DOWN, ZEROZAKI SOUSHIKI...

IT'S ALL RIGHT ...

SEE... IT'S LIGHTING FINE NOW.

I'M IN THE MIDDLE OF A MOUNTAIN... IF I GET THE SLIP ON HER ONCE, THERE'S NO WAY SHE'LL FIND ME.

IT'S AL-

YOU DROPPED THEM.

YOUR GLASSES-

HERE.





Zzz

UNAH ?!

Owowow...

THAT'S HOW IT IS, ISN'T IT?

THERE'S NO LONGER ANYTHING THAT CAN BE DONE.

!?

SO... IT REALLY IS THAT WAY.

WH... WHAT ARE YOU DOING, ALL OF A-

Su...?

WHAT IS THIS?!!

HYAHH

N... NO, THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT...

IF I AM TO BE SERIOUS ABOUT DEFEATING MY SISTER'S KILLER, I'D HAVE TO START BY UNDERSTANDING THE ZEROZAKI, CORRECT?

BY THE WAY, THIS IS JUST AN EXPERIMENT.

CONGRA-TULATIONS. YOU'VE MOVED UP FROM BAIT TO GUINEA PIG.

I'M TALKING ABOUT WHY I'M HOLDING SOMETHING LIKE THIS!!

BEFORE EVEN TAKING IN YOUR SURROUNDINGS...

OR ESCAPING TO A SAFE PLACE, YOU-

WERE YOU TOO UNCONSCIOUS TO NOTICE?

I WONDER IF THIS IS WHAT THEY CALL "DISPOSITION" RATHER THAN "TALENT".

PICKED UP A WEAPON AND POINTED ITS BLADE AT ME.

HOMICIDAL MONSTERS WHO KILL WITH NOTHING MORE THAN SIMPLE AND AMPLE MURDEROUS INTENT.

THE ZERO-ZAKI'S DISPO-SITION.

P... PLEASE DON'T TWIST THIS TO YOUR CONVENIENCE!

ALL I DID WAS GRAB SOMETHING THAT WAS NEAR MY HAND ON THE SPUR OF THE MOMENT AND...

ALL I DID?!

DID YOU SAY "ALL I DID"?!

HII

DO YOU UNDERSTAND?

THEN ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS LET THAT THING GO.

That's a tool for killing people.

I DO SYMPATHIZE WITH YOU.

DESPITE ALL THIS, AS ONE WHO HAD A YOUNGER SISTER,

YOU KNOW, IORI-SAN,

I WONDER WHAT IT'S LIKE.

JUST ONE DAY, SUDDENLY TURNING INTO AN EXISTENCE THAT KILLS WITHOUT QUESTION...

EVEN NOW, RATHER THAN AWAKENING TO YOUR MURDEROUS DISPOSITION, YOU MIGHT HAVE BEEN LIVING A NORMAL LIFE.

IF YOU HADN'T MET WITH THE PUPPETS WE RELEASED, OR WITH MIND RENDER,

IN A SENSE, FOR THE PART OF YOUR LIFE YOU LIVED NORMALLY,

YOU MIGHT BE MORE PITIFUL THAN MY SISTER WHO WAS MADE TO BE A HITMAN SINCE THE MOMENT SHE WAS BORN.

DON'T YOU THINK?

BECAUSE YOU HAVEN'T ACTUALLY KILLED ANYONE YET,

THROUGH MY KINDNESS, I THOUGHT I'D OFFER YOU A CHOICE.

PLEASE DON'T BE NAIVE.

I'M NOT YOUR OLDER BROTHER.

EH...?

IS IT... THAT THOSE CHOICES ARE TO LIVE AS A "ZEROZAKI" OR AS AN "ORDINARY PERSON"?

ARE YOU GOING TO... LET ME GO?

THOSE ARE YOUR CHOICES.

YOU CAN COMMIT SUICIDE WITH THAT DAGGER, OR DIE BY MY NAGINATA.

THERE ARE MANY LEGENDS ABOUT "HER".

THAT "SHE WAS UNHURT AFTER JUMPING DOWN FROM THE 40TH FLOOR OF A BURNING BUILDING" OR THAT "SHE WAS SHOT IN THE ABDOMEN BY A SAWED-OFF SHOTGUN AT POINT-BLANK RANGE AND SURVIVED" ETC.

WHY WOULD SUCH A LIVING LEGEND-

ALLY WITH THE SAWARABI?!

!!

GAS STATION

HERE AGAIN?!

I'VE BEEN GOING IN CIRCLES AROUND THE SAME PLACE SINCE EARLIER ...

BUT TO KEEP PEOPLE FROM LEAVING...

SO THIS BARRIER ISN'T TO KEEP PEOPLE FROM ENTERING,

THANKS TO THAT, I'VE CALMED DOWN A BIT...

BUT...

.....

SHE'S MESSING AROUND.

ALL RIGHT.

I SUPPOSE THAT COULD BE POSSIBLE...

DID SHE APPROVE OF THEIR "REVENGE FOR THEIR SISTER"?

IF IT'S HER...

I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO DO THIS FOR MY LITTLE SISTER.

EVEN IF IT'S "MANKIND'S STRONGEST", NOW THAT SHE'S BECOME AN ENEMY OF THE FAMILY,

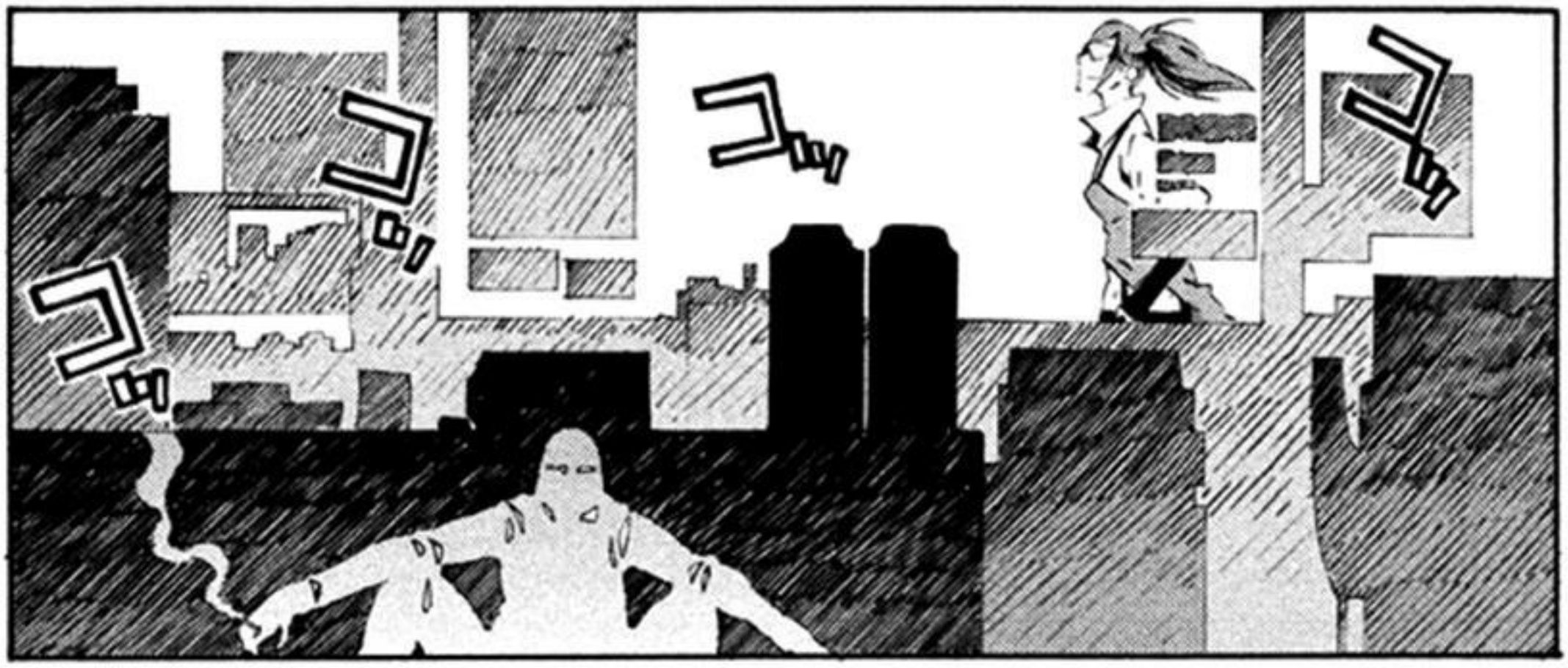
LET'S BEGIN,

ZERO-ZAKI.

HEY, HEY, HOMICIDAL MONSTER,

FIRST IT'S TAG, NOW HIDE AND SEEK?






Are- you-
rea- dy-



HUH?!

I wonder where you've run off to.

..THERE!

NO-W

GAS STATION

FUU.

TO THINK, MY FIRST MEETING WITH THE WOMAN I LOOK UP TO WOULD TURN OUT THIS WAY.

I'LL TAKE THIS CHANCE TO MAKE A STRATEGIC RETREAT.

UFUFU.

I'M HEADING OVER NOW, IORI-CHAN.

I DON'T THINK SOMETHING LIKE THIS CAN KILL THE "STRONGEST", BUT

A GOOD AMOUNT OF HER BATTLE POWER SHOULD BE WHITTLED DOWN.

ピキ

ピキ

RED FLAMES...

.....

... RED?

MORE CRIMSON THAN RED.

THAT'S...

Hey...

You're joking, right...?

IT'S NOT CERTAIN WHO GAVE HER THE NAME, BUT ANYONE WHO REFERS TO HER, CALLS HER THIS.

THAT WOMAN IS-

MANKIND'S STRONGEST

A HOMICIDAL MONSTER.

I found myself,

QUESTION 12 END

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QUESTION 13

HEY, HITOSHIKI,

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

.....

WHAT THE HELL ANIKI...

YOU WERE UP?

THERE'S SOMEONE I REALLY WANNA MEET.

I HAVE NO IDEA WHO THEY ARE OR WHERE THEY'RE FROM, BUT...

WHEN I MEET THEN, I JUST KNOW-

.....

WHERE ARE YOU HEADED TO?

WANDERING OFF AGAIN ...?

SO I'LL CATCH YOU LATER ANIKI.

……

THAT SOMETHING'S GONNA HAPPEN.

REALLY... EVEN THOUGH HE'S MY LITTLE BROTHER, I DON'T UNDER-STAND HIM.

SURELY-

BUT THAT'S EXACTLY WHY I ACCEPT YOU, HITOSHIKI.

パキ

パキ

That's what "family" is, right?

QUESTION 13

I HAVE TO ESCAPE SOMEHOW...

I can't be killed by an existence like that!!

NOT HERE...

I'M PRETTY TIRED,

OF THIS HIDE AND SEEK.

Earth splikker



OH

OH

OH


KILL ALL THOSE WHO MAKE AN ENEMY OF THE FAMILY.
THE HOMICIDAL MONSTER GROUP, THE ZEROZAKI FAMILY,
THE FAMILY WILL PUT ALL THEIR EFFORTS INTO GOING AGAINST "MANKIND'S STRONGEST".
IF I DIE IN A PLACE LIKE THIS, FORGET ABOUT SAVING IORI-CHAN,

THE FAMILY...

I CAN'T GET THE FAMILY WRAPPED UP IN SUCH A FUTILE AND HOPELESS FIGHT.

AN EXISTENCE THAT SEEMS SO IMPOSSIBLE TO KILL...

THAT ALONE, I HAVE TO AVOID...

THAT ALONE...

I* WILL PROTECT THE FAMILY...

WEAK... YOU'RE WEAK. TOO WEAK.

SO... WELL, MEAGER.

I HELD BACK ENOUGH TO NOT KILL YOU. DID YOU DIE ANYWAY?

WHAT'S WRONG, HOMICIDAL MONSTER?

*T/N: KANJI READS ELDEST SON.

TRY HARDER.

YOUR DEAR LITTLE SISTER'S WAITING FOR YOU, RIGHT?

"MAN-KIND'S STRON-GEST"

THAT COMPO-SURE, THAT NEGLIGENCE, THAT RESULTS FROM BEING THE STRON-GEST,

!!

ALLOW ME TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THEM!!

WHAT ...?

DID YOU WANT MY HEAD?

THAT... CAN'T BE...

TH...

I'LL GIVE YOU A HAND.

!?

GUO HH

GAH

GLIH

YOU LOOK RIDICULOUS RISKING YOUR LIVES FOR SUCH WORTHLESS THINGS.

LO...

HAH

THE SAWARABI AND THE ZEROZAKI ARE THE SAME. GOING ON ABOUT THEIR SISTER AND FAMILY.

I... ori... -chan...

AND DIE HERE.

OBSESS OVER THAT WORTHLESS REASON ALL YOU WANT,

THERE'S NO NEED TO EVEN CHOOSE, IS THERE?

DIE AS A HUMAN,

OR DIE AS A NON-HUMAN.

OR DO YOU STILL BELIEVE THAT YOU AREN'T A ZEROZAKI?

WERE YOU A "NORMAL", REGULAR PERSON, NEITHER YOUR FAMILY NOR YOUR CLASSMATES WOULD HAVE DIED.

TH... THAT'S...

THAT'S WHAT YOU CALL "NORMAL".

THEN YOU SHOULD TAKE YOUR OWN LIFE BEFORE YOU COMPLETELY BECOME A HOMICIDAL MONSTER.

WHAT I'M SAYING, IS THAT YOU WILL INEVITABLY STOP BEING "NORMAL".

HOW-EVER-

THAT WAY, YOU WON'T SUFFER AND YOU CAN DIE PEACE-FULLY.

OR WOULD YOU LIKE FOR ME TO KILL YOU?

—

I TOLD YOU, DIDN'T I?

YOUR ROLE AS BAIT IS ALREADY OVER.

Mind Render has already fallen into our trap.

SINCE I'M A PRO YOU SEE.

I DON'T KILL REGU-LAR PEOPLE WITHOUT REASON.

Eh?

I'M BAIT... RIGHT?

IF YOU KILL ME, WHAT HAPPENS WITH SOUSHIKI-SAN...?

... I,

HE'S... HERE?
SOUSHIKI-SAN...

AND HE SAID HE DIDN'T COME HERE TO SAVE ME. THAT GUY...

!

DURING THE IMPORTANT TIMES, HE'S ALWAYS THERE BESIDE ME...

I UNDER-STAND... WHAT YOU ARE SAYING, NAGUMA-SAN...

I'VE BEEN THINKING THIS WHOLE TIME TOO...

WHAT EXACTLY IS THIS "ZERO-ZAKI"...?

.....?

THE LIVES OF THEIR OWN FAMILY TAKE FIRST PRIORITY, DESPITE THEIR COMPLETE INDIFFERENCE TO THE LIVES OF OTHERS.

THEY DON'T FEEL ANY GUILT WHEN THEY KILL PEOPLE.

THEY'RE SO FAR OFF THE RIGHT PATH, THAT IF YOU USE COMMON SENSE, YOU CAN ONLY DESCRIBE THEM AS BEING "EVIL".

.....

BUT YOU KNOW..

THEIR STRANGE AFFINITY, UNCONDI-TIONAL TRUST,

CREATION OF A FAMILY, AND EVEN THE ACT OF KILLING PEOPLE.. IT'S NOTHING BUT THEIR OWN DISPOSITION.

IT REALLY MIGHT BE BETTER TO DIE NOW INSTEAD OF BECOMING A MEMBER OF A GROUP LIKE THAT.

.....

That's wrong.

Wrong ?

THE WORST HOMICIDAL MONSTER GROUP, THE ZEROZAKI FAMILY.

ISN'T THAT HOW THEY ARE?

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING IS "WRONG" ...?

WHAT'S NECESSARY ISN'T BLOOD TIES OR EVEN UNDERSTANDING.

THE ZEROZAKI DON'T BECOME A FAMILY DUE TO DISPOSITION.

EVEN THOUGH ALL I DO IS RUN AWAY, AND I'M SO HOPELESS, SOUSHIKI-SAN ACCEPTED ME.

WHAT IT MEANS TO BECOME A "FAMILY".

But to accept.

I'M SURE THAT IS-

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT...?

.....

NOT BEING A ZEROZAKI, I DON'T EXPECT YOU TO UNDERSTAND.

I don't want to make my older brother cry ever again.

He said to me,

Let's become family.

I'M TALKING ABOUT LITTLE SISTERS!!

!!

NNG...

GIGI...

ドドド

HII

PLEASE DON'T UNDERESTIMATE OTHERS SO.

DID YOU THINK THE SAME TRICK WOULD WORK TWICE?

NO MATTER MUCH TALENT YOU MAY HAVE,

It can't bridge the vast gap between you and a pro.

UNAH ?!

NEVER-
THE-
LESS,

UGUH

LET ME
GROOM
THEM FOR
YOU.

IT'S
DANGEROUS
WHEN NAILS
GET TOO
LONG.

I CAN
SEE WHY MIND
RENDER SEALED
THOSE ARMS OF
YOURS...

Wait... you're joking right?

Don't... please don't...

I'll apologize for attacking you and kicking you, so...

Yeah?

Let's make up.

I'm sorry. Please forgive me. I won't act out anymore.

No, no, no, no, no.

N... no.

PLEA-


AGH!!

Shall I do the other hand one nail at a time?

AH.

EH...

UH...

HII

GII

IGII

VH

EUH

VHH

THIS IS WHAT IT MEANS TO LIVE IN THIS WORLD.

EUH

EH

HOW ABOUT IT?

HAVEN'T YOU HAD ENOUGH?

BUT THAT'S NOT THE CASE FOR YOU.

HAVING BEEN RAISED AS A HITMAN, I HAD NO ROOM FOR CHOICES OR THE RIGHT TO ESCAPE.

WHAT MEANING IS THERE TO LIFE IF YOU HAVE TO GO SO FAR TO LIVE?

EVEN IF YOU MEET WITH PEOPLE, YOU CAN THINK OF NOTHING BUT KILLING.

NOW... THIS IS YOUR LAST CHANCE.

PLEASE CHOOSE.

...UH.

IORI-SAN?

.....

ヒロッ

... WHAT'S SO FUNNY?

UFU ... UFU FUFU FU.

UFU FU.

OHH... SO THAT'S HOW IT IS.

IN THE END, YOU-

WANT ME TO CHOOSE, DON'T YOU?

WHAT-

If you're going to become in-human, choose death of your own volition".

Such... idealism...

WHY IS SHE GETTING UP?!

SHE'S JUST A LITTLE GIRL AND SHE'S BEEN PUT THROUGH SO MUCH PAIN.

KOJIKA-KUN-

IT WOULD'VE BEEN NICE IF WE COULD'VE GONE SOMEWHERE FAR AWAY TOGETHER...

JION-

I DIDN'T WANT TO KILL YOU...

ONII-SAN, ONEE-SAN, DAD, MOM-

BUT... ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, IT WOULD HAVE EVENTUALLY CAUGHT UP TO ME...

BECAUSE I'M SURE... I WAS LIKE THIS FROM THE MOMENT I WAS BORN...

WE WEREN'T CLOSE, BUT I DIDN'T WANT YOU TO DIE...

THROUGH MY OWN WILL, RIGHT NOW, I-

SO AT THE VERY LEAST,

WILL CHOOSE.

SOUSHIKI-SAN-

I'M SORRY I COULDN'T MEET YOUR EXPECTATIONS, EVEN THOUGH YOU TOOK CARE OF ME IN SO MANY WAYS...

I'VE BEEN LIVING MY LIFE JUST RUNNING AWAY FROM MYSELF AND AVERTING MY EYES FROM MY OWN DISPOSITION.

THE POSSIBILITIES AND FUTURE THAT EVERYONE HOPED FOR ME NEVER EXISTED TO BEGIN WITH.

IT'S TRUE THAT YOU MIGHT NOT HAVE RUN AWAY LIKE I DID...

BUT-

!?

NAGUMA-SAN...

WHY DIDN'T YOU CHOOSE DEATH BEFORE BECOMING INHUMAN?

ISN'T IT ALSO TRUE THAT YOU'VE NEVER ONCE HAD TO MAKE A CHOICE OF YOUR OWN?

THAT'S THE ONLY IMPORTANT THING.

HOW YOU LIVE,

YOU JUST LAMENTED THE ENVIRONMENT YOU WERE BORN INTO, ACCEPTING IT AND GIVING UP.

SO-

IT'S NOT HOW YOU WERE BORN, OR HOW YOU WERE RAISED...

I WILL LIVE.

NO MATTER WHAT I BECOME.

That world my sister so badly wanted to escape, so as to even wish for her own death..

Are you saying you're intentionally heading towards it?!

You should've seen that deathmatch on the roof-top!

I WON'T DIE!

I WON'T RUN!

AND I'LL LIVE.

NO MATTER HOW MUCH I DIRTY MY HANDS, AS LONG AS THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO WILL ACCEPT ME,

I'LL ACCEPT TALENT, DISPO-SITION, ALL OF IT!!

:...WAT

GET REAL...
LITTLE GIRL...

YOU'RE A BRAT THAT AWOKE AS A HOMICIDAL MONSTER JUST YESTERDAY OR TODAY.

DON'T TALK LIKE YOU KNOW ANYTHING!

THOSE WHO EXPE-RIENCED JOY AND SORROW WITH YOU, THOSE YOU SHOULD LOVE;

EVEN LITTLE GIRLS WHO HELD NO GRUDGES AGAINST YOU, YOU'VE NEVER HAD TO OPPRESS ANYONE LIKE THAT!

I'M NOT GIVING YOU A PEACEFUL DEATH ANYMORE!

I'll slice you to pieces so you can suffer before you die!

Zerozaki!!

ZEROZAKI SOUSHIKI NO NINGEN SHIKEN ③ END

① Zerozaki Soushiki no Ningen Shiken

That was volume three of the comic version of "Zerozaki Soushiki no Ningen Shiken". There are time when even I think about the difference between manga and light novels. Even though it's the same story, if I were to say what that different was, I sometimes think it's the degree of how much is left to the reader, and sometimes not. There's an extremely famous saying that goes "a picture is worth a thousand words." Well, if I were to go with that point of view, then maybe the "thousand words" would be the light novel, and the "picture" would be the manga? Inevitably, if I tried to write and draw the same thing, you'd think the light novel would be more massive- but it's not. Actually, the "Ningen Shiken" light novel is one book, while the manga is already at 3, and it's still going. There's a limit to the size of panels in manga, so I can't say certain things in certain ways, but generally speaking, I wonder how much it would take in a light novel (in sentences) to express one manga panel. As an example- it's often said that writing "100,000 people" only takes 6 characters*, but it would be difficult to express through manga. Well, even "100,000 people" would be difficult to describe in detail with just 6 characters, but even in manga, you can draw a character saying "Uwahh, there are 100,000 people!" while looking outside a window, so one person would suffice. So I can't say there's one general rule- If I gave such examples, there'd be no end, but more importantly, I feel that there isn't a clear difference between manga and short novels.



If you look at both manga and short novels as a means of "conveying" something, I think the difference might be the method of conveyance. This might lead people to say, "then they're the same", but as long as the method is different, there will be a disparity. When making it a goal to "convey", if I were to say what the pro of "light novels" is, I think it's probably that you "can explain". And if I were to say what the pro of "manga" is, I think it's that you "can show". I'm not saying that either is better. I'm not exactly sure how to put it. Maybe, they're both good, or the grass is greener on the other side. And I wonder if I can do both (if I did both, it would turn into a picture book, but sort of different). If I said it using another proverb, maybe- light novels is "the pudding", and manga is "the proof". In other words, "The proof is in the pudding"? If we say that it's easier to convey things in manga, light novels would be in a pinch. However, the light novel's merit which corresponds to that might be the point of "not saying everything". For those who don't want to say or convey everything they want to say, light novels might be a better genre for them.

*T/N: ALTHOUGH THE KANJI FOR SIBLINGS, OR "KYOUDAI", ONLY USES "OLD BROTHER" AND "YOUNGER BROTHER", THIS TERM CAN ALSO IMPLY FEMALE SIBLINGS. YOU CAN USE OTHER COMBINATIONS TO SPECIFY GENDER AND AGE DIFFERENCES, BUT GENERALLY SPEAKING, YOU ALMOST ALWAYS SEE THE WORD "KYOUDAI" FOR SIBLINGS IN GENERAL.
**THE KANJI FOR THE WEAPON EACH SIBLING USES IS PART OF THEIR NAME.



When you say "the proof is in the pudding", it's true that the "pudding" part is what matters when you want to correctly convey something. But if you're a writer who wants to use some sort of scheme (describing trick?), maybe it's more "the pudding is in the proof". Or if I want to avoid any misunderstandings, "deceptive" light novels might be easier to write for those people.

In summary, if someone asked me what what my point was, I'd say, as usual, not much really. But well, like with this "Ningen Shiken", this undertaking of turning a light novel into a manga I think naturally entails a lot of difficulties, but I'm happy that it was done magnificently. And I'm so excited to see how the story will turn out in the second half! What of Soushiki's fate?! Of Iori's fate?! And what about Soushiki Hitoshiki?! It's not that I forgot the contents of the story. I just come across a lot of startling things while reading. It really makes me think that the impact of drawings is truly different from light novels.

If this becomes animated, "movement" and "music" will also become involved, but if it gets that far, generally speaking, it will become difficult to tell the story.

② The Three Sawarabi Siblings

Here are the three Sawarabi siblings.
Writing out "siblings" is complicated. If you use "kyoudai" the younger sister is included. If you use "keimai" the younger brother disappears. If you use "teimai" the old brother goes off somewhere. And if you use all three characters, you don't know how to read it*. Well, out of convenience, I'll use "three siblings".
Sawarabi Hawatari covers short range, Sawarabi Naguma covers mid range, and Sawarabi Yumiya covers long range. Their names are extended into their weapons**. Their battle tactics are obvious. What confidence.
"Sawarabi" is the title of one of the Genji Monogatari books. And when the "Sawarabi" became a branch family, the "Niounomiya", who were then treated as the main family, is also the title of a Genji Monogatari book. They don't appear in "Ningen Shiken", but there are other branch families, like the "Miotsukushi" and "Agemaki"- There may be 54 families which correspond to the 54 books. Maybe all the families will appear in the comic version?! (They won't.)



⑤ Fox Mask Man

This mysterious character with a mysterious air that suddenly appears, is the last boss of the "Ningen Series"'s sister series, the "Zaregoto Series". I'm pretty sure that when he appeared in this reflection, it was around the time he was gathering subordinates (he was trying to create an organization called the "Thirteen Stairs"), And was trying to invite Sawarabi Hawatari to be a member. Though, he was refused.

Actually, I'm pretty sure he only gathered half the members for the "Thirteen Stairs", even when he appeared in the "Zaregoto Series"…

That might mean that not too many people would accept such an invitation.



③ Sawarabi Yumiya

The bow wielder, Yumiya-san, basically only appeared in monologues in the original light novel. So seeing her movements and fighting figure portrayed in the comic version made me extremely happy. Though, she was killed. She was a younger sister who held complicated emotions towards her two older brothers. I didn't have that concept when I was writing the original light novel, and in the story line, I wasn't able to give her more of a role, but in these 10 years, I've had the chance to learn about something akin to the "appeal of the bow", so I'd like to write a tale with a bow wielder set as the main character some day. When I saw Yumiya-san's battle in the comic version, she really was cool.



⑥ Bound High School Girl

This was made into a figure and included with a limited edition copy or something. I can't help but ask how this happened.

Although people in the modern age don't usually get hung from the ceiling if they lived normal lives, it's pretty scary, and it looks rather painful. And for Iori-san to sleep peacefully through that, she's rather bold. I'm sure Naguma-san was surprised too. He probably thought this girl's not normal.

④ Niounomiya Izumu

In the original light novel, this was a character that had some sort of role here and there. As the original author, this is still one of the characters I want to write. To put it intensely, within this worldview, his strength is top class- This character was one who put his strength in a relative world, then blew that relativity away. The only ones I can say are clearly stronger than Niounomiya Izumu would be Deep Crimson Death, who's mentioned later, and maybe one more?



Being able to portray that strength once more in drawing, it was such a ridiculous strength, it was fun. Nevertheless, in this "Ningen Shiken", he makes a guest-like appearance, so I wasn't able to tell much about Niounomiya Izumu, but that only increased his mystery that much more, and the impact was immense. Not only his battle power, but his character is also strong.



⑨ Mutoh Iori

Her arm!

Title-wise, "Zerozaki Soushiki no Ningen Shiken" clearly shows that the original light novel was written with Zerozaki Soushiki as the main character of the story, and if I had to say, on a setting level, she would be the heroine… that wasn't really the situation, but during the process of writing, it wasn't something that happened unexpectedly, but something I worked on. It might not be an exaggeration to say she'll be the main character in the second half? If you carelessly put a name in a title, this sort of thing might happen, so it's very dangerous. In regards to "Ningen Shiken", Zerozaki Soushiki will rise to the occasion hereafter (though he looks like he's going to die), but a tragedy might occur which might make you think, wait, he's in the title but he doesn't play an active role?

Speaking of picking up the story, her continuing scene in the next volume is really something. Anyway, while we wonder how Mutoh Iori will turn out, both physically and mentally, let's look forward to the 4th volume of the comic version of "Zerozaki Soushiki no Ningen Shiken".



⑦ Deep Crimson Death

This is the one who was cast as the strongest character of this series up until the last volume.

If were to tell you stories about Deep Crimson Death, there'd be no end. But anyway, if there's one thing I can say at this moment, even for top class players like Zerozaki Soushiki and Niounomiya Izumu, she's not one to just glance over. She's an opponent you can't just leave be. Also, I kind of feel like the next volume's going to pick up from a nice point. Going back to the difference between manga and short novels, this stance-like approach of cliff hangers might become unexpectedly crucial.

Well, details will be in the next volume's Past Questions.



⑧ Zerozaki Hitoshiki

He sort of appears a little bit at a time.

Will he make it in time?

※収録されている内容は、作品の執筆年代・執筆された状況を考慮し、
コミックス発売当時のまま掲載しています。

零崎双識の人間試験(3)

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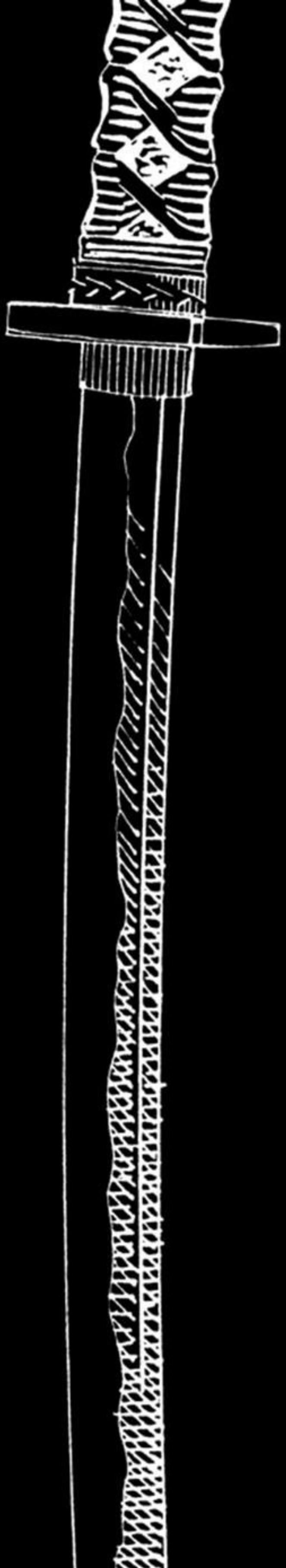
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QUESTION 14



MORE... SUFFER MORE.

THIS DOESN'T SATISFY ME AT ALL.

AH

I'M GOING TO CUT YOU UP UNTIL YOU BEG FOR DEATH-

AGAH

.....

AH

ZEROZAKI!!!

DRIP...

ひとりぼっち

ひとりぼっち

THIS,

IS
HIS FIRST
MEMORY.

HIS
START-
ING
POINT.

IT-

BEGINS INSIDE A CAGE.

QUESTION 14

NOTHING MATTERS...
ANYMORE.

.....

I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG I'VE BEEN HERE OR HOW LONG I'LL REMAIN HERE.

WHY I'M BEING HELD HERE, WHERE THIS IS

..OR EVEN WHO I AM. I DON'T KNOW ANY OF IT.

MY FREEDOM AND POTENTIALITIES WERE TAKEN FROM ME.

I HAVE NOTHING.

I DON'T NEED ANY POTENTIALITIES.

ALL OF IT... I'LL ABANDON ALL OF IT.

WHETHER I'M HERE OR NOT, THE WORLD WON'T CHANGE.

IN WHICH CASE, IT DOESN'T MATTER...

I...



WILL BECOME "ZERO".











SEE, LOOK DEAR.

HE'S HERE AFTER ALL.

A VERY PRECIOUS CHILD.

...WHO ARE YOU BASTARDS?

I'LL KILL YOU...

?……

EGO

HOW LOVELY.

EGO

Haaaa.

HE'S ALREADY TURNED HIS MURDEROUS INTENT ON US.

DON'T YOU THINK IT WOULD BE WONDERFUL?

DEAR, LET'S TAKE HIM IN AS OUR CHILD.

?

HMPH …

I LIKE THE LOOK IN YOUR EYES.

That resolve is befitting.

For us Zerozaki who have been abandoned by all things,

HEY,

Won't you become a part of our family?

FA... MILY...?

THAT'S RIGHT.

B... BUT...

I... HAVE NOTHING.

IT DOES NOT MATTER.

YOUR PAST ISN'T IMPOR-TANT.

I... I... DON'T KNOW WHO I AM...

I'M GLAD YOU'RE HERE.

I...

No... it's "we".

ISN'T IT.. ALL THE SAME, WHETHER I'M HERE OR NOT?

FROM HERE ON OUT, YOU HAVE A FAMILY.

HE BECAME ZEROZAKI SOUSHIKI.

AND SO,

AND SO, HE PROTECTS HIS FAMILY.

HE LOVES HIS FAMILY.

HE HOLDS HIS FAMILY'S HANDS. HE EMBRACES HIS FAMILY.

HE TREA-SURES HIS FAMILY'S BOND.

WHICH IS WHY HE,

CANNOT LOSE IN A PLACE LIKE THIS!

WH-

WHAT?!

GAHH

YOU SAY IT'S WORTHLESS TO RISK YOUR LIFE FOR YOUR FAMILY?

YOU DON'T EVEN UNDERSTAND THE REASON WE FIGHT FOR OUR LITTLE SISTER?

IS THERE A POINT IN UNDER-STANDING SOMETHING LIKE THAT ?!

YOU CAN'T MAKE EVEN A SINGLE PENNY OFF OF SOME-THING LIKE THAT.

HA.. HAHA ...

AS I THOUGHT,

I FEEL AT EASE HEARING THAT.

YOU'RE NOT HER.



YOU REALLY COMPLICATED THINGS QUITE A BIT,

DIDN'T YOU,

THOUGHT MANIPULATION SPECIALIST GROUP'S, TOKINOMIYA BYOUIN.

FOR ME TO COMPLETELY LOSE MY COMPOSURE. IT'S SO EMBARRASSING.

ハァ ハァ

TOKI-
NOMIYA
TOKEI-
SAN?

YOU SHOULD HAVE BEEN COMPLETELY CAUGHT UP IN MY TECHNIQUE!

HOW DID YOU REALIZE IT WAS AN ILLUSION?!

I BOTH FEAR AND RESPECT MANKIND'S STRONGEST.

AND AT THE SAME TIME, I FEEL AN AFFINITY TOWARDS HER.

Ufufu.

YOU KNOW,

AND IT'S NOT BECAUSE OF HER ALL POWERFUL ATTRIBUTES.

It's how she lives her life.

If it's for someone close, even if she's alone, she would still make an enemy of the world.

Wouldn't you describe that as the epitome of man's potential?

THAT WAS STRANGE TOO.

IF I THINK ABOUT IT, THAT RED CLOTH,

BESIDES ...

IF IT WAS HER...

SHE WOULD'VE CARVED "IF YOU TURN AROUND, YOU'RE DEAD", AND THEN LAID IN WAIT.

THAT'S HOW SHE IS.

EVEN IF IT WAS TO THREATEN ME, OR ATTACK ME FROM BEHIND;

THERE WAS NO REASON TO GO TO THE TROUBLE MAKING ME ASSOCIATE THAT WITH THE COLOR "RED".

THEY WERE TRULY EXCELLENT.

YOU DIDN'T STUDY UP ON HER ENOUGH, BUT YOUR BRAINWASHING, ILLUSION, BARRIER, AND MIMESIS,

I'm a homicidal monster.

WH... WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING TO DO WITH ME...?

"DO"?

WHAT WILL I "DO"... YOU ASK?

UFUFU.

DID YOU FORGET WHO I AM?

I am Zerozaki Soushiki.

Hii

Hiii

Hiiiiiiii

Hiii

Hii

SO EVEN THAT APPEAR-ANCE,

... I SEE.

Is false.

AAAHHH

WHAT'S WRONG, TOKINOMIYA?

GRAB

Hii

Higi

Your face is warped in fear.

Hiii

P... please, don't kill me!

I was just hired by the Sawa-rabi!

To think this is the appearance of the Tokinomiya who governs fear and manipulates consciousness. It's ridiculous.

.....

HE.. HEHEHE. HOW ABOUT SOME MONEY?! HOW MUCH DO YOU WANT?!

I'LL GIVE YOU AS MUCH MONEY AS YOU WANT.

EVEN HOMICIDAL MONSTERS NEED MONEY FOR THEIR FAMILY TO SURVIVE, RIGHT?!

...HAH?

MY, MY... IT MUST'VE BEEN A BITTER DECISION FOR THE SAWARABI TO JOIN HANDS WITH SOMETHING LIKE THIS.

HUH

IT'S TRUE THAT TO SURVIVE AND TO HIRE THE FAMILY, MONEY IS A NECESSITY.

-BUT,

FOR A FAMILY, MONEY

ISN'T WHAT'S IMPORTANT.

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU DESTROYED THAT IMAGE OF "HER" WHICH I BOTH LOVE AND RESPECT.

A... ARE YOU PLANNING TO KILL AN OLD HAG LIKE ME?

NEEDLESS TO SAY, YOU "FAIL".

YOU TOY WITH OTHERS' POTENTIALITIES THROUGH YOUR THOUGHT MANIPULATION TECHNIQUES, AND YOU LOSE YOURSELF TO MONEY.

FORTUNATELY, I'M SORRY TO SAY THAT YOU DIDN'T DESTROY IT IN THE SLIGHTEST.

..WELL THAT'S

WHAT I'D LIKE TO SAY, BUT-

I'LL BE QUOTING MY DEAR LITTLE BROTHER HERE.

AH...

DOESN'T LOOK LIKE I CAN CONVINCE YOU TO LET ME THROUGH WITH WORDS, DOES IT?

I DON'T REALLY HAVE TIME TO PLAY THOUGH...

SORRY, BUT-

DON'T THINK I'LL BE NICE BECAUSE YOU'RE A COUPLE OF GIRLS, OKAY?

"OLD OR YOUNG, MAN OR WOMAN,

I DON'T HOLD BACK."











AND IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE THE BARRIER WILL DISAPPEAR FOR A WHILE EITHER.

THE DAMAGE FROM THE ILLUSION TECHNIQUE STILL REMAINS AFTER ALL.

...SO,

THIS WON'T BE FAIR UNLESS I GET IORI-CHAN TO AT LEAST GIVE ME A PASSIONATE HUG.

UFUFU.

ISN'T THIS A COINCIDENCE, MEETING YOU HERE,

WELL, WELL.

.....

COME NOW, AFTER RUNNING AWAY SO DISGRACEFULLY YESTERDAY,

DON'T TELL ME YOU WANT REVENGE.

.....

SAWARABI NAGUMA-KUN?

You are a bit late.

...She

HMM? OH.

MY DEAR SISTER,

YOU'RE TREATING HER WELL, RIGHT?

SO...

ABOUT IORI-SAN...

ALREADY DIED BY MY HANDS.

QUESTION 14

END

ZEROZAKI SOUSHIKI NO NINGEN SHIKEN

by NisiOisiN and SHIOMIYA Iruka



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Zerozaki Soushiki no Ningen Shiken v4 c15

Credits

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Proofreader: Yukiko-san

Cleaner: Zeemice

Typesetter: Alexfilia

QC: Ell

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QUESTION 15

ARE YOU MAD, NII-SAN?!

...JOINING HANDS WITH THE TOKINO-MIYA.

OF ALL PEOPLE, WHY THOSE UNTRUST-WORTHY GUYS?

.....

DON'T YOU HAVE ANY SELF-RESPECT AS A HIT-MAN?!

!!

YOU MAKE ME LAUGH.

SELF-RESPECT ...

IS IT?

YOU'RE TOKINO-MIYA TOKEI?

SO...

INDEED.

THAT YOU CAN'T DESTROY THE ZEROZAKI WITH SELF-RESPECT ALONE;

THE NEW HEAD OVER THERE UNDERSTANDS,

And also that the Sawarabi have been pushed into a corner.

I KNOW.

WHAT DO YOU KNOW?!

PRINCI-
PLES,

EXIS-
TENCE;

ADVO-
CACY,

ALTHOUGH THE TOKINOMIYA STAND AS YOUR ANTITHESIS IN ALL RESPECTS, YOU HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO BORROW OUR SERVICES.

THE ONE THING THE SAWARABI PERFECTED WAS THE 3-IN-1 SAWARABI SIBLINGS.

NOW THAT A PIECE IS MISSING-

BUT THERE'S JUST ONE EXCEPTION.

THE ZEROZAKI.

HOMICIDAL MONSTERS: ZEROZAKI

Hitmen: Niounomiya _ Thought Manipulators: Tokinomiya

Assassins: Yamiguchi - Weapons Craftsmen: Tsumiguchi

The Enders: Susukino - Virus Users: Kino

Mass Murders: Hakamori - Caretakers*: Nukumori

Custodians: Tenbuki -Death Executives**: Shibuki

Reapers: Ishinagi - Prophets: Toganagi

AS YOU'RE AWARE, THE "MURDERING NAMES" HAVE A CORRESPONDING "CURSING NAME" AS THEIR ANTITHESIS.

*T/N: AS IN ZOOS.

**THIS IS A PLAY ON WORDS. "SHIHAININ" MEANS EXECUTIVE, BUT THE THE ORIGINAL CHARACTER FOR "SHI" HAS BEEN REPLACED WITH THE "SHI" MEANING DEATH.

I THOUGHT YOU WOULD KNOW BEST THOUGH, AFTER HAVING DIRECTLY CONFRONTED ONE.

IT JUST GOES TO SHOW HOW SPECIAL AND DIFFERENT THEY ARE IN THIS WORLD.

.....

FOR STARTERS, BRINGING UP NAIVE THINGS LIKE SELF-RESPECT WHEN IT COMES TO REVENGE SHOWS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN YOUR RESOLVE AND THAT OF THE NEW HEAD.

WITH THEM AS YOUR ENEMY THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS OVER-PLANNING, IS THERE?

AS LONG AS I GET WHAT I CAN GET,

THAT'S ALL THAT MATTERS.

WELL, IT'S NOT LIKE I CARE ABOUT SELF-RESPECT OR PRINCIPLES.

SO...

HAVE YOU STRENGTHENED YOUR RESOLVE?

THAT GROUP-

You're going to destroy the Zerozaki, right?

YES.

I KILLED HER.

HER?

YOU... KILLED...

YES,

YOUR...

IORI-
CHAN...

...SISTER.

WHY DID YOU KILL HER...?

DIDN'T YOU KIDNAP HER TO LURE ME AND THE OTHER ZEROZAKI HERE?

WEREN'T YOU GOING TO USE HER AS A HOSTAGE ?!

OH,

IS A HOMICIDAL MONSTER GOING TO COMPLAIN ABOUT ONE OF THEIR OWN BEING KILLED?

WELL, YOU SUCCESS-FULLY ARRIVED HERE,

AND IN ORDER TO BRING OUT THE OTHER ZEROZAKI, WOULDN'T IT BE MORE EFFECTIVE TO PUT YOUR HEAD OUT ON DISPLAY?

OR MAYBE, AFTER I KILL YOU, I CAN HAVE THE TOKINOMIYA GANG MIMIC YOU-

SO YOU'VE ENDED UP ABANDONING SOMETHING...

IT LOOKS LIKE YOUR RESOLVE IS DIFFERENT.

AND GET CLOSER TO THE FAMILY. THAT MIGHT NOT BE TOO BAD EITHER.

YOU...

.....

I SEE...

AND TO THINK YOU HAD "PASSED" TOO.

IT'S EX- TREMELY ...

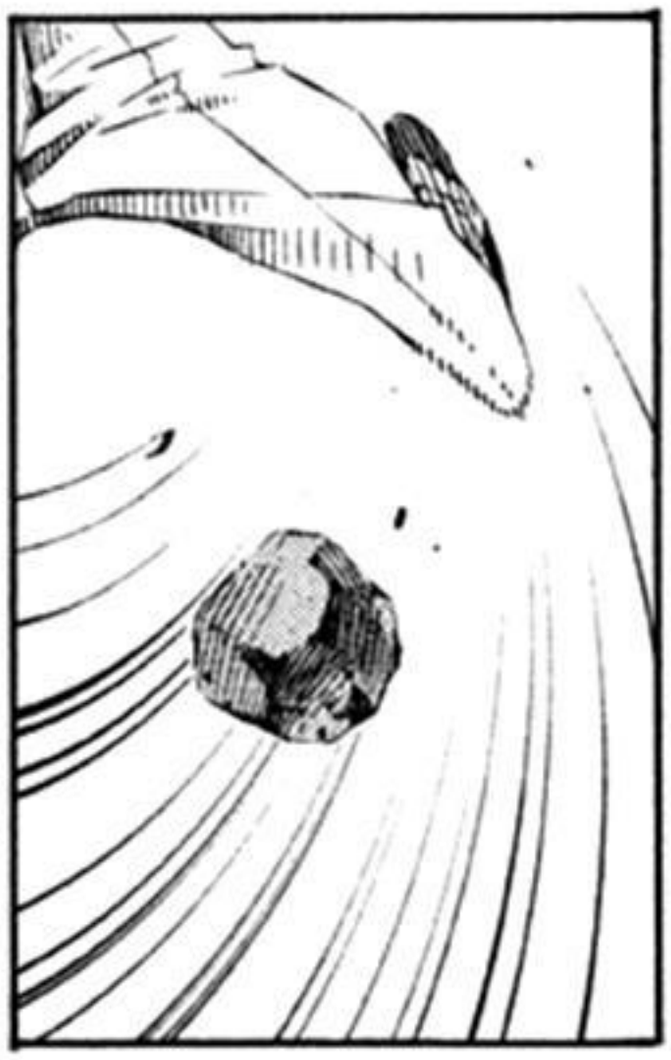
Unfortu- nate.

GUH.















I THOUGHT THIS ON THE ROOF TOO, BUT..

?

UFUFU ...

...FU.

THE SAWARABI, THE TOKINOMIYA AND THE ZERO-ZAKI...

WE'D BE AN ANACHRONISM, AT BEST.

AREN'T WE BOTH RIDICULOUS?

HON-ESTLY SPEAK-ING-

THOSE ACTIONS YOU TAKE WHICH THROW THE THINGS I WISH SO MUCH FOR DOWN THE DRAIN,

.....

ESPE-CIALLY THAT LOOK OF YOURS.

WHY DO YOU GO SO FAR TO DISTANCE YOURSELF FROM WHAT IS "NORMAL" I WONDER.

I WON'T FALL FOR THAT.

WHOOSH

HEY, HEY, I WAS IN THE MIDDLE OF TALKING.

IT'S MOST LIKELY FROM YOUR PREVIOUS BATTLE. YOUR MOVEMENTS ARE DULL.

The damage to the left half of your body...

!

I'M SURE YOU'RE TRYING TO BUY TIME TO RECOVER FROM THAT,

BUT WE ARE HAVING A DEATH MATCH.

I will not give you.

Such time.

VERY WELL.

THEN I AS WELL...

YOU REALLY DO SEEM LIKE AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT PERSON FROM YESTERDAY.

PHEW... WELL THEN,

.....

I'LL DO A THOROUGH JOB OF PLAYING MY PART AS A HOMICIDAL MONSTER.

AN OVER-HEAD STANCE.

……

…STRESS-ING ON ATTACKS ARE YOU?

MOSTLY LIKELY, ONCE I ENTER THE SPACE BETWEEN US, A SLASH ATTACK WILL COME FROM OUTSIDE MY FIELD OF VIEW.

BUT,

IF I CLOSE THE DISTANCE IN ONE GO, HIS BLADE WON'T REACH ME.

MY PATH IS ALREADY SET.

EVEN IF ANOTHER ATTACK COMES, IT'LL BE FROM THE BUTT END.

IF I FALL BACK AFTER THAT, I'LL BE IN A DISADVANTAGEOUS POSITION DUE TO THE NAGINATA'S SIZE.

NO-THING TO WORRY ABOUT.

I'LL GIVE YOU A BONE OR TWO AS A SOUVENIR.

IN THAT TIME, I'LL LAND A LETHAL BLOW,

AND END THIS.

IT'S LIKE,

SOME-THING'S BOTHER-ING ME.

WHAT IS THIS UNEASY FEELING..?

...HOW-EVER,

I FEEL LIKE I'M BEING ENCHANTED.

I'M NOT ONE TO FALL FOR THE SAME TRICK TWICE.

I DEFINITELY KILLED TOKINOMIYA TOKEI.

AND THIS SAWARABI NAGUMA HERE ISN'T AN ILLU-SION.

WITH THIS ONE ATTACK,

A DRAWN-OUT BATTLE IS DISADVAN-TAGEOUS.

CON-CENTRATE.

I'LL DROP YOU!!

GOT YOU!

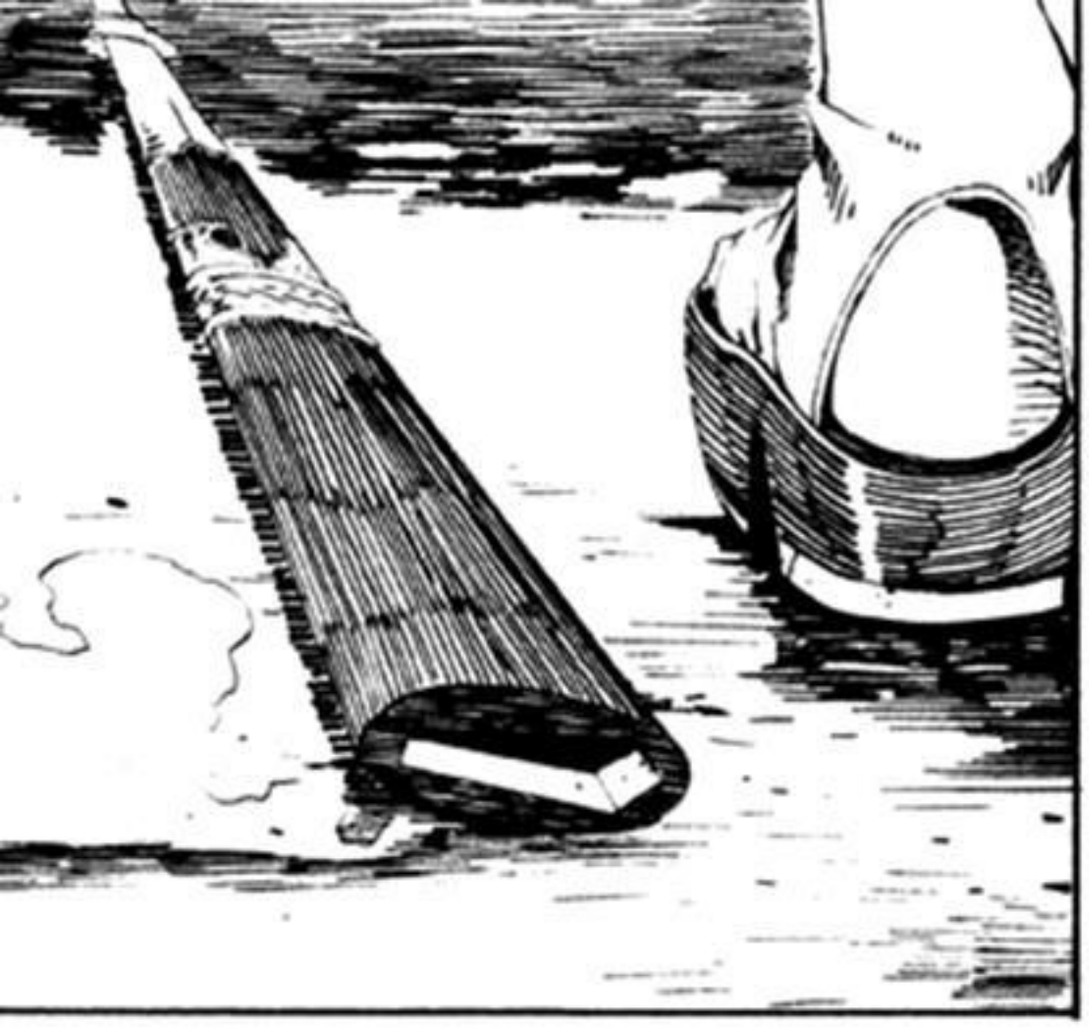
YOU HAVE,

BEEN SOUNDLY CAUGHT.

HAH?









A...


A HIDDEN ...
... SWORD ?

SAIWARABI HAIWATARI-KUN.

THAT EXPRES-SION

.....

H... HEY, DON'T TELL ME ...

YOU CAN REALLY TICK PEOPLE OFF DOING THAT THESE DAYS.

I WANTED TO SHOW THIS TO MY YOUNGER BROTHER.

NO-

NAGU...

WE'RE WHAT'S COMMONLY REFERRED TO AS IDENTICAL TWINS.

CORRECT.

I CAN'T HELP BUT LAUGH.

HA... HAHA...

A twin swap trick...

I can't believe you really were a different person.

Correct.

I SEE. SO THAT OUTDATED JAPANESE OUTFIT,

AND THE COMPLETELY OPPOSITE ONE YOU NORMALLY WEAR HAWATARI-KUN, ARE ALL PART OF THE PRODUCTION...

IF I WAS ABLE TO GET IN CONTACT WITH MANKIND'S STRONGEST, I WOULDN'T HAVE HAD TO USE IT.

HOWEVER, THIS HACKNEYED METHOD-

AND IF BOTH FAILED, YOU WOULD'VE RESORTED TO PRECONCEPTION THROUGH AN ILLUSORY REPLACEMENT.

YOU WOULD'VE PLANTED THE PRECONCEPTION THAT IF IT'S NOT AN ILLUSION, IT'S THE REAL DEAL.

I SEE...

IT DIDN'T MATTER WHETHER I WAS DEFEATED BY THE REAL DEAL OR BY A FAKE...

NO, IT'S SPLENDID.

I UN-DERESTIMATED YOU, HAWA-TARI-KUN...

SO- IT'S FINE IF YOU USED DECEPTION TO DEFEAT ME...

YOU KNOW, RIGHT NOW...

.....?

!?

This... doesn't feel bad.

WHY DO YOU NOT PICK UP THOSE LARGE SCISSORS?

Although that was a lethal blow, you should still be able to fight.

.....

I don't understand.

I DIDN'T SET UP THIS PLAN TO DECEIVE YOU JUST TO HAVE YOU MAKE SUCH A PEACEFUL FACE!

Unlike the Sawarabi who have been pushed into a corner, as a Zerozaki...

Not being a Zerozaki, you wouldn't understand this feeling.

YOU'RE SO DARK.

DID YOU WANT ME TO DIE WHILE RESENTING YOU...?

...I HAVE THOSE WHO WILL CARRY ON MY DYING WILL.

!?

Ufufu ...

IT'S PRECISELY BECAUSE YOU'RE LIKE THAT THAT I'M AT PEACE.

THEN ALL I HAVE TO DO IS PREPARE MORE TRAPS AND KILL YOU ONE AT A TIME.

THAT'S CONVENIENT.

BUT AGAINST A COWARD LIKE YOU, WHO USES ANY AND ALL TRICKS-

IF THE OPPONENT WAS MANKIND'S STRONGEST, THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN NO POSSIBLE WAY TO KILL HER, NO MATTER WHAT.

IT'S AN EASY WIN FOR ANYONE IN THE FAMILY.

OUR RE-SOLVE,

IS ON A DIFFERENT LEVEL FROM YOURS.

HAH..

THERE AREN'T ANY COWARDS IN MY FAMILY WHO WOULD FLINCH AT SUCH THINGS.

You'll get close to them through mimesis ...?

You'll lay traps ...?

THANK YOU FOR KILLING ME,

SAWARABI HAWATA-RI-KUN.

QUESTION 15 END

ZEROZAKI SOUSHIKI NO NINGEN SHIKEN

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QUESTION 16

WHAT ARE YOU PLOTTING HERE?

THANK YOU... FOR KILLING ME?!

WHOA!

SPARE ME THE FINISHING BLOW...

JUST LOOK AT THIS WOUND.

THIS IS DEFINITELY A FATAL WOUND...

DON'T GO OUT OF YOUR WAY TO GET NEAR ME AND TAKE ANY RISKS.

JUST WATCH ME HEAD TOWARDS DEATH FROM THERE.

THAT...

IS THE VICTOR'S RIGHT.

QUESTION 16



第十七話 ナイト

HOW-EVER,

I'LL LET HIM HAVE THE FINISHING BLOW.

MY BROTHER SHOULD BE PUTTING AN END TO YOUR SISTER RIGHT ABOUT NOW.

...VERY WELL.

IF you make any unnecessary movements, I will kill you on the spot.

...MY, MY.

THERE'S NO WAY MY DEAR SISTER WOULD BE BEATEN BY YOUR BROTHER, SO AT THE VERY LEAST...

I WISH YOU'D JUST LET ME DIE IN PEACE HERE.

.....

!?

YOU...

I'LL ASK AGAIN,

WHAT ARE YOU PLOT-TING?

EVEN AMONG THE "MURDERING NAMES", AREN'T THE ZEROZAKI THE MOST ASSERTIVE AND CARNAL GROUP?

EVEN IF YOU HAVE TO ABANDON EVERY-THING-

... HEY, HEY, GIVE ME A BREAK, HAWATARI-KUN.

THAT'S A MISUNDER-STANDING FOUNDED ON PRE-JUDICE.

DO YOU NOT FEEL AN URGE TO KILL ME?

YOU PROBABLY WON'T BELIEVE ME, BUT, YOU KNOW..

I DON'T KILL NEED-LESSLY.

THE TRUTH IS I DON'T WANT TO KILL PEOPLE

MURDER... I'M SICK OF IT.

THAT'S HARDLY SOMETHING YOU WOULD THINK TO HEAR FROM A HOMICIDAL MONSTER.

.....

MY SISTER OFTEN ASKED,

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO "LIVE", TO "KILL"?

THEN FOR YOU...

FOR THE ZEROZAKI, WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO "MURDER"?

...MEANING?

THERE IS NO MEANING. AT THIS POINT, THIS IS WHAT YOU'D CALL AN INCURABLE DISEASE.

ONCE YOU MURDER, IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO STOP THE PROGRESSION.

THIS DEEP SADNESS...

YOU WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND IT.

FOR THE ZEROZAKI, KILLING PEOPLE MEANS NOTHING.

LITERALLY, IT MEANS ABSOLUTELY NOTHING.

SO ABOUT MY LITTLE BROTHER KILLING YOUR SISTER,

THAT'S PROBABLY HOW HE FELT ABOUT IT.

YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT THIS IS THE FAMILY'S COLLECTIVE WILL AND NOT MY OWN PERSONAL OPINION.

.....

In other words, there was no meaning to my sister's death.

Then there is no meaning to my brother's grudge.

And so, the actions of the Sawarabi,

Have no meaning.

To "live" and to "die",

Are both the same.

RIGHT.

AND IF I WERE TO ANSWER YOUR SISTER'S QUESTION,

FOR BOTH THE ZEROZAKI AND THE SAWARABI, AS LONG AS WE CONTINUE TO LIVE, WE MUST CONTINUE TO KILL.

THERE'S NO MEANING IN IT.

YOU'VE ALREADY REALIZED THAT HAVEN'T YOU,

HAWA-TARI-KUN?

……

BUT WE'RE NOT TALKING ABOUT THINGS WITH NO MEANING RIGHT NOW...

DO YOU REALLY HAVE THE CONFIDENCE TO MAKE AN ENEMY OF MY ENTIRE FAMILY AND SURVIVE WITH JUST THE TWO OF YOU?

I SEE...

WHICH MEANS, FOR YOUR ONLY SISTER, THE WORST-CASE SCENARIO WOULD...

WE HAVE OTHER COLLABO-RATORS THAN JUST THE TOKINOMIYA.

...MEAN A WAR BETWEEN FELLOW "MURDERING NAMES"— THE NIOUNOMIYA AND THE ZEROZAKI.

AND THE ONLY ONE OBSESSED WITH REVENGE FOR MY SISTER IS MY BROTHER.

MY GOAL IS TO RAISE THE SAWARABI NAME.

IF THAT'S ALL THE WORST-CASE SCENARIO ENTAILS, I WOULD WELCOME IT.

IT WOULD BE AMUSING IF THE SAWARABI BECAME A "MURDERING NAME" IN PLACE OF THE ZERO-ZAKI.

It almost it seem as if you're more concerned about an encounter with the "worst" rather than your sister's death.

THAT MANNER OF SPEECH,

WELL LOOK AT WHAT HAPPENED WITH YOUR EXAM.

YOUR MOTIVE... THIS METHOD.

IT SHOULD BE AN AUTOMATIC "FAIL" BUT IN THIS SITUATION...

KNOW YOUR PLACE.

ufufu ...

TO BEGIN WITH, THE FACT THAT A HOMICIDAL MONSTER LIKE YOURSELF IS TESTING OTHERS IS RIDICULOUS.

HMPH...

ENOUGH WITH THE IDLE TALK.

LET'S HEAR ABOUT YOUR BROTHER.

EXCUSE ME...

.....

-whoo-ps.

YOUR LIFE WILL LAST 30 MORE MINUTES AT BEST.

SPEAK QUICKLY.

...30 MINUTES.

THAT'S A LONG TIME. SO TEDIOUS.

JUST LIKE LIFE.

THE NAME OF YOUR SISTER'S KILLER...

IS ZEROZAKI HITOSHIKI.

I SAY THIS EVEN AS HIS OLDER BROTHER BUT... HE'S A GUY WHO CAN'T BE HELD DOWN.

...OH,

MY BROTHER ... RIGHT?

He's an idiot, but a cute kid.

?

Which is why, as his older brother, I feel bad for this incident.

.....

I made sure to teach him to kill all his enemies, but he left a grudge...

HE HAS A HABIT OF WANDERING... EVEN NOW, I HAVE NO IDEA HOW HE'S DOING.

TRUTH BE TOLD, I WAS IN THE MIDDLE OF SEARCHING FOR HIM TOO...

ufu fu...

IT'S TOO SOON FOR HIM TO BE ON HIS OWN AFTER ALL...

INDEED

THAT IS UNLIKE A ZEROZAKI.

I REALLY NEED HIM TO GET IT TOGETHER...

AND SOON, I WON'T BE ABLE TO LOOK AFTER HIM.

...WHAT IS THIS?

HEY, HAWATARI-KUN, MY BROTHER...

THERE'S A PRETTY HIGH CHANCE THAT HE'S AROUND HERE SOMEWHERE. IF YOU HAPPEN TO MEET HIM, I WANT YOU TO TELL HIM SOMETHING FOR ME.

That...
I'm sorry.

WHAT IS THIS DEATH SCENE?

THE FACT THAT I... ZEROZAKI SOUSHIKI, HAD A BROTHER LIKE YOU,

IN IT'S OWN WAY... IT BROUGHT ME COMFORT. TELL HIM THAT...

...WHAT IS THIS?

ALSO, THAT IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE I CAN KEEP MY PROMISE OF GIVING HIM MY SCISSORS WHEN I DIE.

IT'S AS IF HE WERE A PROUD OLDER BROTHER SPEAKING OF HIS YOUNGER BROTHER,

WORRYING ABOUT HIS FAMILY WHILE ON THE BRINK OF DEATH.

ARE THESE REALLY THE LAST MOMENTS OF A MURDEROUS MONSTER?

?

YOU...

WHAT ARE YOU...?

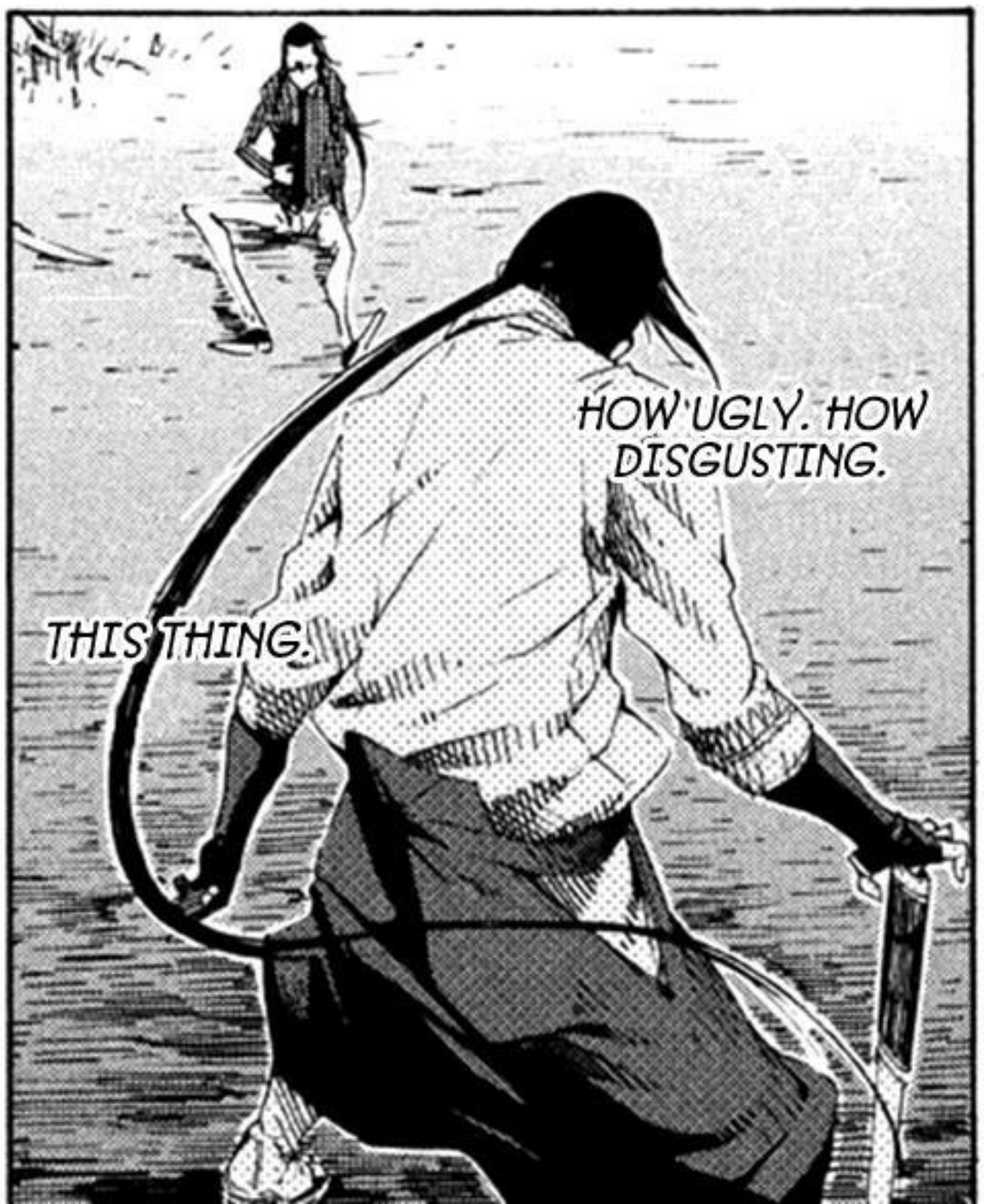
.....

Fu,

DID YOU NOT KNOW?

I AM ZEROZAKI




HOW UGLY. HOW DISGUSTING.
THIS THING.



I CAN NO LONGER LEAVE YOU ALIVE.

NOT AS A HITMAN, BUT AS AN INDIVIDUAL HUMAN.

I MUST KILL THIS ONE.

AT THIS THIS VERY SPOT,

SO THIS IS IT, HUH?

.....

MY RIGHT ARM'S OCCUPIED.

AND HE'S NOT AN OPPONENT I CAN'T TAKE ON WITH JUST MY RIGHT LEG.

I CAN'T MOVE MY LEFT ARM YET.

I CAN'T MOVE MY LEFT LEG BECAUSE I PUSHED IT TOO FAR.

IORI-CHAN...

RUNNING ISN'T A BAD THING.

YOU RUN AWAY.

LOOK...

IT'S ALL RIGHT TO RUN.

IF IT'S TO MOVE FORWARD, TO CHOOSE SOMETHING,

THE WORLD OUTSIDE
THIS CAGE,

IS OVERFLOWING
WITH POSSIBILITIES.

YOU ARE
POTENTIAL.
YOU ARE
HOPE.

SO PLEASE,
FOR ME-

KEEP RUNNING
AND SURVIVE.

YOU SHOULD
STILL HAVE A
PLACE TO RUN
AWAY TO.

THIS IS A
DEAD END
FOR ME, BUT

DON'T KILL ANYONE...

IF POSSIBLE, YOU SHOULD WANDER AROUND WITH HITOSHIKI AND FIND ANOTHER POTENTIALITY.

MY BROTHER'S THE MAIN CAUSE OF ALL THIS, BUT HE'S NOT A BAD GUY.

IF IT'S HIM, HE WON'T FORCEFULLY DRAG YOU INTO BECOMING A ZEROZAKI.

IF POSSIBLE I WANTED SEE IT TOO. THE TWO OF YOU...

UFUFU ...

WALKING SIDE BY SIDE.

...HEH.

Really wanted a little sister too...

I...















QUESTION 16

END

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QUESTION 17

HAA

HAA

HAA

SOUSHIKI-SAN TOLD ME.

IT'S TRUE THAT I MIGHT BE ABLE TO RETURN TO A NORMAL LIFE STILL.

BUT-

THE POTENTIAL TO LIVE WITHOUT KILLING PEOPLE DESPITE HAVING AWAKENED AS A ZEROZAKI.

THAT I'M "POTEN-TIAL".

THAT I WON'T RUN AWAY

I'VE DECIDED.

SO-

I'VE CHOSEN.

TO ACCEPT IT.

QUESTION 17

WAIT FOR ME,

ONII-CHAN.

THAT...

IS A ZEROZAKI...













NO...

I GUESS THAT'S WRONG.

SHE WASN'T THRASHING ABOUT FROM PAIN.

WHAT... LUCK.

SHE WAS SHAKING THE BUILDING IN ORDER TO DROP THE DAGGER FROM THE BEGINNING.

YOU WERE PLANNING OUT YOUR MURDEROUS INTENT.

SO, EVEN IN SUCH A DESPERATE SITUATION,

REALLY NOW...

I THOUGHT YOU WERE JUST SOME GIRL WHO WAS PART OF THE AUDIENCE...

THAT ALL YOU WERE CAPABLE OF WAS RUNNING AWAY... UNABLE TO MAKE ANY CHOICES.

SHE WAS A CHOSEN ONE.

IF THAT'S THE ONLY LEVEL OF EXISTENCE THAT IS ALLOWED TO DO SO, THEN AT MY LEVEL, I REALLY DO

INDEED, THAT GIRL HAS THE RIGHT TO RISE TO THE STAGE.

...don't I?

"Fail"

OUR STAGES ARE DIFFERENT.

OUR DIMENSIONS ARE DIFFERENT.

I'M SURE... THAT'S HOW IT IS.

THE ZEROZAKI DO IT AS A "WAY OF LIFE".

THE SAWARABI DO IT AS "WORK".

THEY BOTH KILL PEOPLE IN ORDER TO CONTINUE TO LIVE.

BUT WE ARE NOT THE ZEROZAKI.

OUR KILLING IS NOT A WAY OF LIFE.

ANYTIME I WANTED...

I COULD'VE JUST QUIT...

RUN AWAY, LIVE, AND CHOOSE SOMETHING.

TRUTH IS, OTHER SUCH POSSIBILITIES WERE THERE.

IF I WANTED TO RUN, I COULD'VE RUN.

THAT I WOULD REALIZE SOMETHING SO SIMPLE AFTER ALL THIS TIME.

I CAN'T BELIEVE I COULDN'T EVEN LEARN THAT.

DYING... WASN'T NECESSARY, WAS IT?

IF I WAS ABLE TO ANSWER THAT QUESTION BACK THEN, WOULD THINGS HAVE BEEN DIFFERENT?

IF SO, EVEN NOW, WOULD THE THREE OF US

HAVE BEEN ABLE TO BE TOGETHER ...?

I WONDER IF NII-SAN IS STILL FIGHTING.

WHAT DO YOU THINK, YUMIYA-SAN?

WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO QUIT THIS HITMAN BUSINESS.

IF WE'RE BOTH ABLE TO SURVIVE,

BEING IN THE MIDDLE, YOU CAN SEE A LOT OF THINGS.

HE NEVER SHOWS IT ON THE OUTSIDE, AND HE MIGHT NOT EVEN BE AWARE OF IT HIMSELF, BUT...

BUT DESPITE HOW HE SEEMS, HE'S A FAMILY MAN.

.....

NII-SAN WILL PROBA-BLY TRY TO CONTINUE FIGHTING EVEN IF HE'S ALONE.

MY BROTHER'S FEELINGS.

MY SISTER'S -

HER FEELINGS TOWARDS MY BROTHER.

EITHER WAY, WITH THIS ARM IMMOBILIZED, I'LL HAVE TO GIVE UP THE HITMAN BUSINESS.

WELL, AT THE VERY LEAST,

WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO DO ANY-THING.

HAVING BEEN BORN AS HITMEN, I DON'T KNOW WHAT WE CAN DO, BUT...

NOW...

IT'S JUST A BIT... PLEASANT.

FU...

TO THINK A DAY WOULD COME WHEN I WOULD EMBRACE SUCH HOPE TOWARDS THE FUTURE.

I DON'T HAVE TO KILL ANY-ONE ANY-MORE.

?

Yo...

I KINDA-

GOT LOST.

I FEEL LIKE A MEMORY CARD IN THE MIDDLE OF SAVING.

THIS FOREST IS LIKE A MAZE. IT'S CRAZY.

DON'T TURN AROUND.

NO...

KNOW THIS GUY.

In other words, I'm stuck.

Kahaha.

EVERYTHING WILL END.

IF I TURN AROUND...

ARE YOU HURT BY ANY CHANCE?

HMM?

I'M GOOD AT THINGS LIKE STOPPING A BLEEDING.

LET ME TAKE A LOOK.

ドゴ！！

ドゴ！！





ZEROZAKI!!!!!

YUMIYA-SAN...

YUMIYA-SAN!

I FINALLY FOUND HIM.

I FOUND HIM.

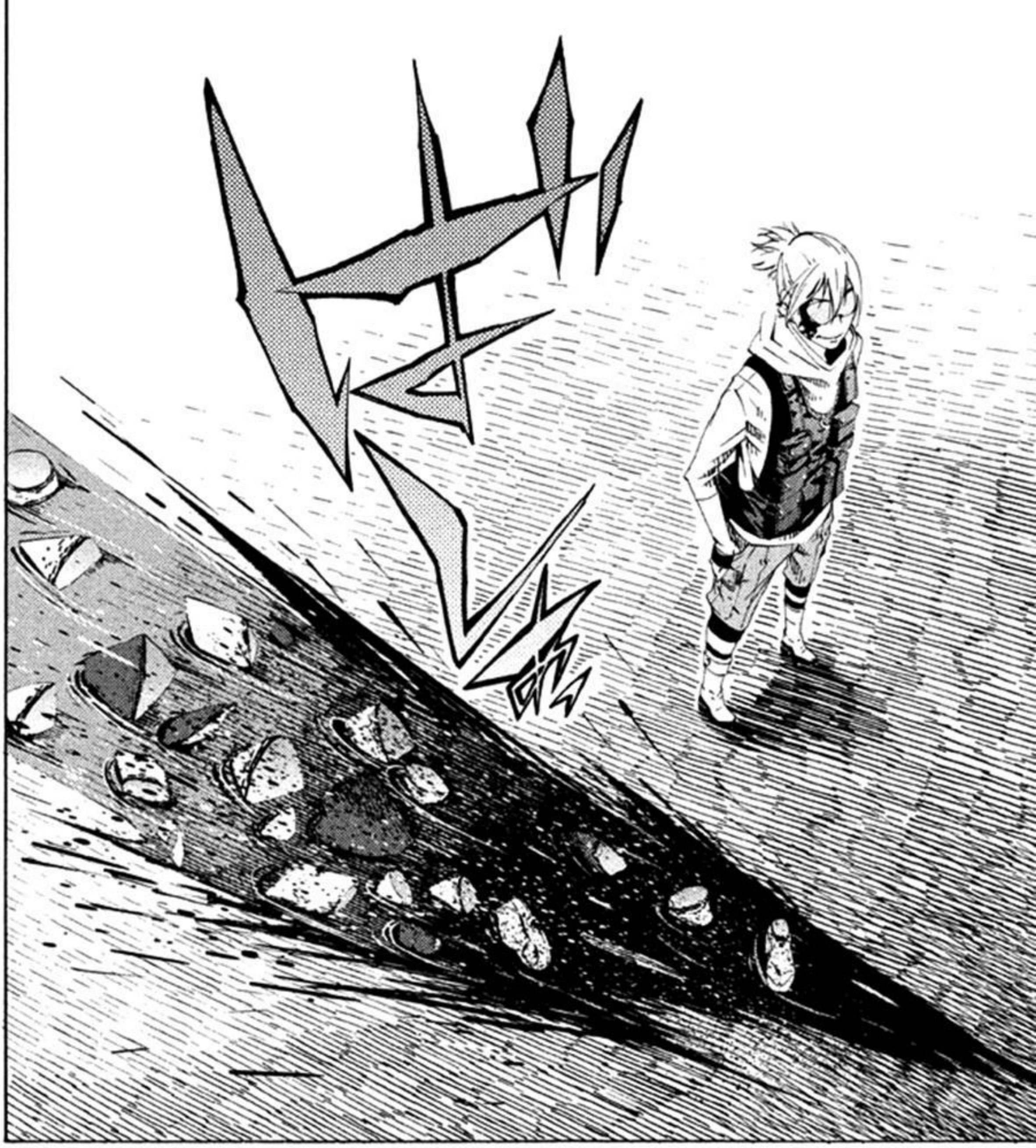
HEY... THAT'S A BIT DANGEROUS.

KI...

I WILL-

THIS GUY...

THIS IS THE ONE GUY, NO MATTER WHAT.




I MADE SURE TO WARN YOU, YOU KNOW?
AH...

It's dangerous.

I said it.

HMM?

HMM?

A GIRL'S WRIST,

...RIGHT?

THIS NII-CHAN'S SHOULDER WOUND WAS A RESULT OF A BATTLE...?

WHICH WOULD MEAN,

AND TORN OFF NAILS.

SURVIVE AND ESCAPE FROM HERE?

DID THE GIRL WHO HAD HER WRIST CUT OFF, BUT SOMEHOW MANAGED TO WIN,

That girl might still have,

NO...

IT'S NOT LIMITED TO "ESCAPE", IS IT?

Or "a target to protect"

"A target to defeat"

POSSIBLY.

MUTOH IORI!!

THE FACT THAT SHE'S HERE MEANS THAT,

NAGUMA...

EVEN STILL,

NO...

"The Worst".

You are not yet to be consid-ered.

NAH~

FAIL...

ゴロゴロ

IORI-CHAN!!

UNAH.

WHY DID YOU COME?!

YOU IDIOT!

Why?

Why...?

……

Ufufu.

INDEED.

RUN?

HOPE? POSSI-BILITIES?

IF YOU HAD QUIETLY RUN AWAY, YOU WOULD HAVE STILL HAD HOPE AND POSSIBILITIES.

IT'S AS IF YOU CAME TO DIE.

THINGS TO BE GAINED BY GOING AS FAR AS TO ABANDON FAMILY,

Are things I don't need.

QUESTION 17

END

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QUESTION 18

ALL RIGHT...

ANIKI'S WHERE THE SMELL OF BLOOD IS-

THERE'S NO TIME. GUESS I SHOULD HURRY.

.....

Who was he?

IT LOOKED LIKE HE KNEW ME SOMEHOW...

SPEA-KING OF WHICH,

This smallfry character-kun?

QUESTION 18



.....

MM~

WELL...

YOU COULD'VE JUST RUN AWAY...

EH?

SUCH A FOOL...

ufufu.

?

I thought you might be lonely by yourself.

Onii-chan,

YOU WORRYWORT.

THEY FALL... BEYOND REASON.

AND DESPITE THE FACT THAT SHE'S LOST SO MUCH BLOOD, SHE'S-

SHE HAD BOTH HER HANDS CUT OFF,

STILL ABLE TO MAINTAIN CONSCIOUSNESS?

TS/NOTE: THEY LOOK LIKE LOVERS INSTEAD OF FAMILY LOL XD

ISN'T IT ABOUT TIME YOU DIED ALREADY?!

How much blood must you spill before you're satisfied?

YOU'VE ALREADY SPILT SO MUCH.

.....

YOU TWO...

?

YOU ARE SO LOUD.

.....

INSTEAD OF WORRYING ABOUT US,

WHY DON'T YOU GO TO WHERE NAGUMA-KUN IS?

The meaning to Iori-chan being here,

IT'S NOT LIKE YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT IS, RIGHT?

.....

THIS JUST MEANS I'LL HAVE TO BE MORE RIGID WITH MY STRATEGIZING HEREON.

IT'S INEVITABLE FOR THE WEAK TO LOSE.

I COULD NOT CARE LESS.

LONG SINCE CAST MY FAMILY AWAY!

I'VE ALREADY,

You "fail".

!?

!

DESPITE ALL THAT, YOU CAN'T CAST THEM AWAY SO EASILY.

PEOPLE WHO DON'T EVEN REALIZE THAT, AND DON'T HOLD THEIR FAMILY DEAR,

EVEN IF YOU AREN'T CLOSE, EVEN IF YOU FIGHT ALL THE TIME,

AB-
SURD.

THAT'S NOT SOMETHING YOU SHOULD SAY... MOVING ON TO A NEW FAMILY SO EASILY.

"Fail."

In order to hold back your bleeding, he's removed his hand from his own wound.

THROUGH YOUR OWN DOING, MIND RENDER WILL DIE.

AND THOSE ACTIONS OF YOURS.

Under-stand what that means.

I'm sure you,

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO DOESN'T UNDERSTAND.

.....

YOU'RE WRONG.

That I can think dearly of my new one.

It's because I think dearly of my previous family.

I'LL DIE SLOWLY AFTER HE DOES.

I WON'T TELL SOUSHIKI-SAN TO LET GO.

ISN'T THAT RIGHT?

IT'S AN OLDER BROTHER'S TRUE DESIRE TO DIE PROTECTING HIS LITTLE SISTER.

Onii-chan?

THIS... LOT...

WHAT A SELF-SERVING GIRL.

DO THEY HAVE NO INTENTION OF LIVING?!

ARE THEY SAYING THEY'RE FINE WITH DEATH IF THEY'RE NOT SAD?

OR ARE THEY SAYING THEY'RE FINE WITH DEATH AS LONG AS THEY'RE NOT ALONE?

IF SO, THIS LOVE-

IS THIS FAMILIAL LOVE THE ZEROZAKI PUT THEIR FAITH IN?

A CONNECTION MORE REPULSIVE THAN THEIR MURDEROUS DISPOSITION.

IT OVERFLOWS
WITH SUCH EVIL.

I'M SURE THOSE WHO AREN'T ZEROZAKI CANNOT COMPREHEND IT.

THEY ARE DEVIATED.

THEY HAVE LONG SINCE-

FALLEN FROM THE PATH.

LIKE.

THAT WOMAN, REGARDLESS OF BEING ON STAGE OR NOT,

WHO CHANGES THE PLACE SHE STANDS INTO THE STAGE.

LIKE

THE MAN WHO TRIED TO RULE THE VERY STAGE,

WHILE STANDING OUTSIDE THAT STAGE HIMSELF.

BOTH THE WORLD THEY LIVE IN, AND THEIR COMMON SENSE.

THIS LOT, THE ZEROZAKI ARE DIFFERENT.

BUT IT STILL ISN'T SOMETHING I CAN ACCEPT.

I UNDERSTAND THE FACTS,

IF YOU CALL THIS THING A "FAMILY",

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING WE WERE EXACTLY..?

THEY'RE COMPLETELY INCOMPREHENSIBLE TO PEOPLE.

THEY CAN NEVER BE TORN APART BY ANYONE.

0

ZEROZAKI.

HAWATARI-KUN.

MY MES-SAGE FROM EARLIER, DON'T FORGET TO RELAY IT TO HIM.

THE ONE WHO... KILLED YOUR LITTLE SISTER.

THE NEXT ZEROZAKI THAT YOU'LL FACE IS PROBABLY MY LITTLE BROTHER.

UFUFU... THAT'S RIGHT.

BECAUSE I'M SURE THAT HE,

.....

YOU RELY ON SUCH EMPTY THREATS THIS CLOSE TO YOUR FINAL MOMENTS?

WELL, IT'S HIM WE'RE TALKING ABOUT.

IT'S POSSIBLE HE MIGHT ALREADY BE NEARBY.

WILL KILL YOU.

NOW,

MAKE HASTE AND EXIT THE STAGE.

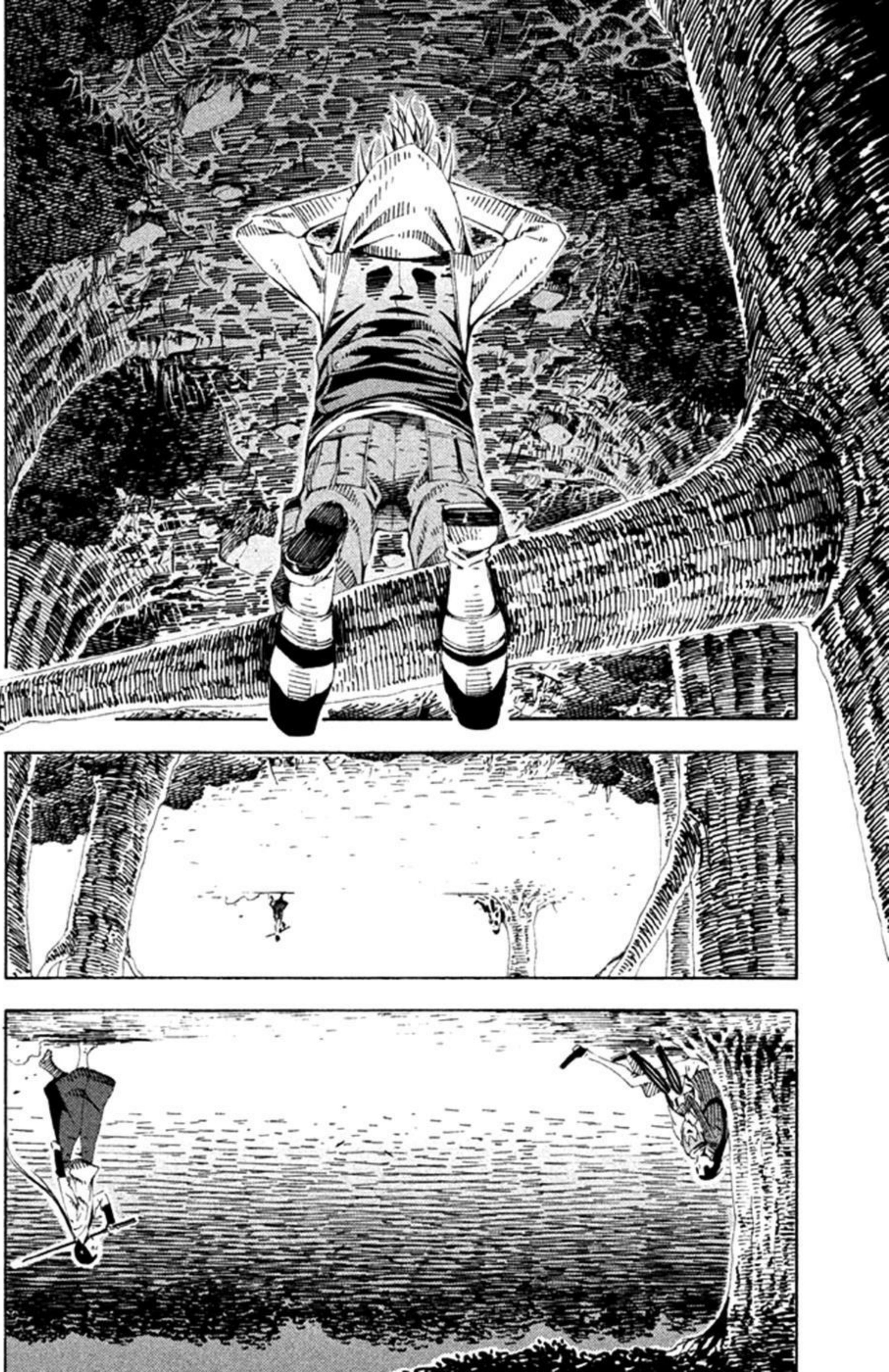
HMPH.

.....

YOU KEEP ADDING TO YOUR FOOLISH REMARKS.

YOUR PLACE OF RESIDENCE IS WITHOUT A DOUBT HELL.

I WILL SEND YOUR BROTHER THERE SHORTLY AS WELL.



I GET MOST OF THE SITUATION, BUT-

MAN, CARELESS AS EVER, THAT STUPID ANIKI.

I SEE... I SEE.. I GET IT.

IF YOU KEEP MAKING EMPTY THREATS AND FOOLISH REMARKS,

HH

0-!







It makes it ridiculously hard to make an appearance, man.

001

I WAS LOOKING FOR YOU SO I COULD KILL YOU BEFORE I LEFT JAPAN AND HELP MYSELF TO THOSE WEIRD SCISSORS,

AND HERE YOU ARE, JUST DYING ON YOUR OWN.

KAHAHA.

WHAT'S THIS? WHAT'S THIS?

ぽ…

REALLY NOW... IT'S BEEN HALF A YEAR SINCE WE LAST SAW EACH OTHER.

So lame.

YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED AT ALL, HAVE YOU...?

ZEROZAKI!!

NO MATTER HOW HARD I TRY TO KILL YOU ALL, YOU KEEP GUSHING FORTH FROM HELL!!

SHOULD I RETREAT FOR NOW AND PLAN OUT A STRATEGY...?

3 AGAINST 1. WHAT DO I DO?

THIS ONE AS WELL, AT THIS VERY SPOT, I WILL

MUCH LESS TO SAY, IF HE'S A ZEROZAKI, I MUST KILL HIM.

NO... THIS IS ESSENTIALLY 1 ON 1.

Ohh, that.

It's not impossible to cut, but you can't do it with a mere katana.

MY KATANA-

WON'T MOVE?!



……

!?

WHAT IS THIS...?

WHAT DID HE DO?!

WHERE ON EARTH DID YOU LEARN IT...?

SUCH A VULGAR SKILL,

!?

"Limit Skill"

IT'S NOT LIKE I WAS WANDERING AROUND THE COUNTRY AIMLESSLY.

KINDA PICKED IT UP A FEW YEARS AGO.

FROM WHAT YOU CALL PROSTITUTION OF LEARNING.

IT'S TOO DANGEROUS TO ENTER CLOSE COMBAT WITH THIS ONE.

AS LONG AS I DON'T KNOW THE NUMBER OF HIS SPECIAL WEAPONS,

LIMIT... SKILL?

IF THE THREE OF US WERE HERE?

DAMN IT... THIS LOT.









A RIDICULOUS DELUSION.

FOOLISH...

.....

IN THE END, DOES THIS MEAN WE ARE A WHOLE AS THREE...?

NO...

MY FAMILY.

IS SOMETHING I SHOULD HAVE CAST ASIDE A LONG TIME AGO.

AT THIS POINT...

I VOWED TO RAISE THE SAWARABI NAME FOR MY OWN SAKE.

YOU...

WHO ARE YOU?

GIVE ME YOUR NAME.

I CANNOT POSSIBLY FALL BACK.

ZEROZAKI
HITOSHIKI.

That's
the only name I
have to give at
this point.

ZEROZAKI SOUSHIKI NO NINGEN SHIKEN VOLUME 4 END



② Tokinomiya Tokei

Also, the fake Mankind's Strongest.

There may or may not be a theory that says if there's no fake, then you're not the real deal. In that sense, until the last volume, the woman who was thought to be the Crimson Death- was an illusion produced from a thought manipulation technique it seems. In the light novel, although I spent a lot of care in the way I described her, the degree of freedom in this area seems higher in manga which is wonderful. Although this author thought she was young, thanks to the manga, I was surprised to find out that that was an illusion as well. I guess this author was also caught in a thought manipulation technique...

① Zerozaki Soushiki no Ningen Shiken

And there you have volume 4 of the comic version of "Zerozaki Soushiki no Ningen Shiken". We somehow already finished volume 4. It went by in a flash, didn't it? Like an arrow shot off by Father Time. Although, I think light is faster than an arrow. Anyway, development-wise, I'd say this volume was quick-paced, or that it had a lot of things happen. 10 years is a long time, and it's already been 10 years now since I wrote the "Zerozaki Soushiki no Ningen Shiken" light novel. So even as the author, I can't say for sure, but when I was writing this development, contrary to belief, it seems I took care to avoid drawing and describing the Sawarabi siblings as the enemy. Of course, there's also Iori-san. I wrote Iori-san while worrying about what would happen to her and how things would end up. People might call me crazy since I'm the writer and all, and I don't know about the first half of a tale, but for the second half, it is precisely because one is the writer that there are many things that are out of their control. In my case, that was so for the first half as well, but even more so because I was the author of the original work too. So lately, my life has pretty much been me waiting on pins and needles for each Monthly Afternoon to see what exactly happens to Iori-san and Soushiki. If I think about what an author's special right is, or what motivates people to become authors, I think it's the same way a chef can taste freshly made food, the author becomes the first reader. But there might be something more closely relatable in the case of someone who also wrote the original work.



③ The Zerozaki Family

The parents make an appearance.

Zerozaki Soushiki's "father" and Zerozaki Soushiki's "mother".

In the original light novel, the names of these two were revealed later on, but well, I'll put that aside for now. It's a bit difficult to know how much I should reveal and how much I should keep hidden in these Past Question Sections which play the role of something like a glossary. You could say it's surprisingly difficult to draw the line between the setting in the foreground and the background. So these were the types of people they were. The father's lethal weapon is cool.

The mechanism to the Zerozaki family's structure is a mystery, but it seems the order of entering the family doesn't seem to set your position in stone. Position meaning dad, mom, and brother for example.



Human Exam

Past Questions 4

Author Nishio Ishin

⑥ Hidden Katana

A katana concealed in a staff or umbrella.

This time around, since it was concealed inside a naginata, it kind of felt like a Russian doll, didn't it? Although it's obvious, because a steel rod-like object is inside it, the cane or umbrella probably gets pretty heavy. In that sense, a person looking at a hidden katana might be able to tell just by looking at it.

You can hide a long sword in a naginata, but not a naginata in a long sword. So Hawatari's fine when he disguises himself as Naguma with his hidden katana, but if Naguma disguised himself as Hawatari, it seems it would be necessary for him to work out a different idea.

It seems rather impossible to hide a long sword in a bow, but I wonder. If it was possible, would he have been able to switch places with his sister as well? Wait a minute, was Sawarabi Yumiya not an identical sibling of Sawarabi Hawatari and Sawarabi Naguma to begin with…?





④ "Old or young, man or woman, I don't hold back."

Zerozaki Hitoshiki's catchphrase.

It's an amazing catchphrase.

However, it's not that there aren't exceptions, but fundamentally, all the homicidal monsters of the Zerozaki family abide by "Old or young, man or woman, I don't hold back", so rather than saying it's Zerozaki Hitoshiki's catchphrase, it might be more precise to say it's the Zerozaki family's catchphrase.



⑤ Sawarabi Hawatari

Twin swap trick.

Let's see, at the time I wrote this and even now, this might still be something I favor. Though it may be an old trick or something that's been used for a long time, I think it's nice that he dares to use such a method. I think that the simple approach is surprisingly overlooked- no, maybe I'm just being rebellious thinking that the simple approach is a blind spot.

Normally, he has a tendency to hide his face with a baseball cap and sunglasses, and he wraps himself in fashion that's the extreme opposite to his brother Naguma's, which is something he does to alter his image and hide the fact that he's a twin.

I think there's a part of him that also simply thinks he's more suited to such a "disguise". But taking on the trouble of maintaining that in his daily life even when he's alone is something you might be able to call a part of his nature.



⑧ Mutoh Iori

I feel like I remember writing "Her Arm!" in the previous Past Questions, but now, her other arm too. Both Her Arms! The description of how she gallantly rushes in to repel the enemy, depending on how you take it may seem comical, but that one drawing where she rushes at Sawarabi Hawatari, even within the numerous scenes in the comic version of "Zerozaki Soushiki no Ningen Shiken", I feel it's the coolest and most stylish.

For the wrist which was cut by Naguma, she stops the bleeding with her restraints from before.

As for the wrist which was cut by Hawatari, her older brother stops the bleeding.

At the time I first started to write the original light novel, I don't think I clearly decided whether she would affiliate herself with the Zerozaki family or not. I feel like I wrote the story so that it was possible for her to affiliate herself with the family, or to return to her normal everyday life without affiliating herself, or maybe even die before deciding on either, all depending on the development of the story. I don't believe that's something within the writer's powers to decide. I believe the only thing the writer can decide is the setting in the beginning- but in the end, she chose the "Zerozaki".

She didn't run away.

It really seems like she's going to do at this rate after making her choice It really seems like she's going to die right after making her choice, but just when you think that, a genuine Zerozaki rushes onto the scene. Now, what's going to happen? So exciting.

⑦ Sawarabi Naguma

Dead.

Or actually… in the original light novel, "pass" and "fail" were just introduced in all the chapters like a caption, and when he first fought Zerozaki Soushiki on the apartment roof top, he was already evaluated as a "pass".

But afterwards, he receives another exam in the form of a "supplemental test", and he meets an inexplicably gloomy end after failing.

Even though he passed, he was tested again, and failed.

But depending on the situation, you can't say this wouldn't happen even in the real world... because there are many things that can happen in this world which you can only call absurd, right?

Speaking of which, in the original light novel, Tokinomiya Tokei-san used a "double to take the exam", and failed. Looking at "Zerozaki Soushiki no Ningen Shiken" like this, when it comes to the exam in the later half, it seems unfair and all over the place.

He died in pieces, or rather, tiny little pieces.

Personally, or actually, as the original author, I thought it was cool how Zerozaki Hitoshiki deduced the situation from his corpse and Iori's wrist. But putting deduction and all aside, I kind of want to tell him that he's the one who created that scene of death. For certain reasons, at this time, Zerozaki Hitoshiki is a character that is a "homicidal monster who deduces".



⑨ Zerozaki Soushiki



Is this what they call wounded all over?

Well, this can also serve to show how much the existence of the "Cursing Names" which stand opposite the "Murdering Names" should be avoided. Fortunately, the "Cursing Names" have a high inclination for self-destruction and self-ruin, so you can often win without getting involved with them. But if you carelessly go after one as with this case, you'll be in a world of trouble. On top of receiving massive mental damage, there are other lingering effects…

Because the Zerozaki are avoided even more, surprisingly, it might not have been strange if the Zerozaki were also included as one of the "Cursing Names."

What's more, in order to stop Iori's wrist from bleeding, he gave up on stopping his own bleeding. And that is the current situation before we move on to the next volume.

The next volume.
In other words, the last volume.
Look forward to it!

※収録されている内容は、作品の執筆年代・執筆された状況を考慮し、
コミックス発売当時のまま掲載しています。

零崎双識の人間試験(4)

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by NisiOisiN and SHIOMIYA Iruka

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零崎双識の人間試験

ゼロサキソウシキ

5

零崎人識の人間試験

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QUESTION 19

SORRY TO DO THIS HERE OUT OF THE BLUE,

BUT LET ME TRY TO DO A STUDY OF THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ME AND "HIM".

I MET "HIM" UNDER A BRIDGE IN KYOTO ONE NIGHT.

ME TAILING "HIM" TO KILL HIM,

WAS THE CATA-LYST.

QUESTION 19

WE WERE LIKE REFLECTIONS IN A MIRROR, BOTH ONE AND THE SAME, BUT ALSO COMPLETE OPPOSITES. THE ONE ABSOLUTE DIFFERENCE,

BETWEEN "HIM" AND ME,

WAS THAT "HE" WAS WAY TOO KIND.

TO A POINT BEYOND HELP.

"He" couldn't forgive that weakness of self.

110

WHEN ALL HE HAD TO DO WAS LOVE HIMSELF.

"HIS" MISTAKE WAS THAT HE ENDED UP APPLYING THAT TO OTHERS TOO.

That's why "he" could not avoid solitude.

THAT'S WHY I CALLED "HIM",

AT THAT POINT, YOU'RE NOT EVEN A LIVING BEING. YOU'RE AN INORGANIC MECHANISM.

It's a fault which threatens your life and obstructs progress.

For living beings, kindness isn't an advantage or a pro or anything.

A "FAULTY PRODUCT".

I JUST CAN'T FORGIVE THE STRENGTH OF SELF.

IN CONTRAST, I'M NOT KIND AT ALL.

HOW CAN I, WHO DON'T DEEM OTHERS SUCH AS FRIENDS OR FAMILY AS NECESSARY,

BE CALLED HUMAN?

EVEN IF I'M ALONE, OR IF PEOPLE AREN'T KIND TO ME, I'M COMPLETELY FINE.

That's why "he" called me,

They' are a "failure" as a living being.

LIVING BEINGS ARE LIVING BEINGS BECAUSE THEY LIVE IN GROUPS.

THOSE WHO LIVE INDEPENDENTLY CAN'T HELP BUT DEVIATE FROM THAT DEFINITION.

A "HUMAN FAILURE"*.

T/N: "NINGEN SHIKKAKU" - TERM FROM ANOTHER ONE OF NISHIO ISHIN'S WORKS.

HON-
ESTLY,

SO
RIDICULOUS.

ZERO-
ZAKI.

HITO-
SHIKI.

U...
UMM,

YOU'RE-

!?

!?

DON'T TALK TO ME LIKE YOU KNOW ME LITTLE LADY.

.....

AHH, WAIT...

SO I HAVE EVEN LESS OF AN OBLIGATION TO SAVE SOME-ONE LIKE YOU, WHO I JUST MET.

I'LL GO AHEAD AND SAY THIS, BUT I DON'T THINK OF ANY ZEROZAKI OTHER THAN ANIKI AS FAMILY.

I originally came to kill Aniki so I guess I have no obligation to save him either, do I??

.....

I CAN'T GRASP HIS TRUE IDENTITY.

WHAT'S WITH THIS GUY?

"LIMIT SKILL"

AND HIS SKILL EARLIER,

WHAT DO I DO...?

IT'S LIKELY THE WORST MATCH AGAINST A KATANA...

KATANA...

eyes.

That's what happens after all.

i?

That's the normal reaction, right?

?

.....

You don't jump in recklessly when you don't even know what your opponent's weapon is,

-Right?

RIGHT.

THAT'S NATURAL. IT'S A GIVEN.

HOWEVER... THOUGH,

.....

NATU-RALLY.

EARLIER, THE GUY WITH THE SAME FACE AS YOURS CAME RUSHING AT ME WITHOUT ANY HESITATION.

HE YELLED.

"ZERO-ZAKI!"

... SO YOU'RE THE ONE WHO KILLED MY YOUNGER BROTHER?

WHAT...

DOES THIS MEAN?

EX-ACTLY...

THEN THERE IS NO DOUBT. IT'S ONLY NATURAL.

YOU...

RIGHT!

It was like the guy knew me.

In other words,

He came rushing at me precisely because I wasn't an unknown enemy.

.....

INCON-SISTEN-CY?

WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY?

DON'T YOU NOTICE A STRANGE INCONSISTENCY HERE?

BUT-

MR. SUPER COOL SAMURAI-SAN?

If he really did know who I was,

That means it would have been unwise of him to make such a suicidal attack.

Ka haha.

LOOK,

WITH MY LIMIT SKILL RIGHT BEFORE HIS EYES, HE WOULD'VE SEEN HOW DANGEROUS HIS ACTIONS-

NO..

Because he couldn't see this technique, he should've understood how dangerous it was.

NO...

DID MY BROTHER RUSH IN, AWARE OF THIS SKILL...

B... BUT, THAT MEANS,

THIS DOESN'T ADD UP.

THEN DOES THAT MEAN YOU DIDN'T USE THAT STRANGE SKILL WHEN YOU KILLED MY YOUNGER SISTER?

INCOM-PRE-HEN-SIBLE!

THAT'S WHERE THE MISUNDER-STANDING STARTS WITH YOU GUYS.

I'LL GO AHEAD AND SAY THIS, BUT I-

スッ

スッ

スッ

HAVE NO INKLING OF EVER SEEING YOUR FACE.

AND TODAY WAS MY FIRST TIME MEETING YOUR BROTHER.

WASN'T MY DOING.

WHAT'S MORE, THE DEATH OF YOUR LITTLE SISTER,

THIS IS TOTALLY WHAT YOU'D CALL A FALSE ACCUSATION.

THEN WHO ARE YOU SAYING KILLED MY SISTER?

ANSWER ME!

ABSURD ...

...RIGHT.

... BUT WELL, IF I HAD TO GUESS,

THERE'S NO WAY I'D KNOW SOMETHING LIKE THAT

WHAT ABOUT HER?

THAT HAG IN PIECES OVER THERE.

TO...

TOKINO... MIYA.

AHH, RIGHT, RIGHT.

SO THAT HAG WAS A TOKINOMIYA AFTER ALL.

I DID THINK SHE WAS A "CURSING NAME" FROM BY HER LOOKS AND THE SITUATION,

BUT NOW IT'S FOR SURE.

USING THE TOKINOMIYA'S SPECIALTY, THEIR "THOUGHT MANIPULATION TECHNIQUE",

SHE TRICKED YOU GUYS.

MY SISTER'S TRUE MURDERER,

WERE THOSE TWO NOT CONFRONTED BY A ZEROZAKI?!

WHAT IS THIS GUY SAYING?!!

IMPOSSIBLE!

THE TOKINOMIYA WERE PROBABLY TRYING TO GET THE NIOUNOMIYA AND THE ZEROZAKI TO CRUSH EACH OTHER.

WHICH MEANS YOU'RE ANTITHET-ICAL TO THE TOKI-NOMIYA.

YOU GUYS ARE THE SAWARABI, A BRANCH FAMILY OF THE NIOUNOMIYA, RIGHT?

WAS TOKINOMIYA?!

AT TIMES, IT DESTROYS ONE'S SENSE OF VALUE OR COMMON SENSE,

AND CONTROLS HUMANS LIKE PUPPETS.

"THOUGHT MANIPULATION TECHNIQUE"

IT DELUDES YOUR WORLD.

AT TIMES, IT SHOWS ILLUSIONS, AND THROUGH FALSE LOCATIONS OR APPEARANCES-

IT'S A TECHNIQUE IN WHICH ONE ENTERS THE TARGET'S MIND AND MANIPULATES THEIR CONSCIOUSNESS.

WHAT'S MOST NOTEWORTHY ABOUT THIS TECHNIQUE,

IS-

YOU CAN NEVER REALIZE THAT YOU ARE CAUGHT IN IT.

THAT IF YOU CAN'T SEE THROUGH IT,

ESPECIALLY AGAINST ALLIES,

IT EXHIBITS THE GREATEST EFFECTS.

WHICH IS PRECISELY WHY THE "CURSING NAMES" ARE A REPULSIVE EXISTENCE, WHETHER THEY BE FRIEND OR FOE.

MORE THAN ANYTHING, AS FAR AS THE NATURE OF THIS SORT OF TECHNIQUE GOES,

BUT...

BUT!

DON'T BE FOOLED.

IMPOSSIBLE... A FABRICATED STORY.

WHY WAS NAGUMA LET GO?

THE ZEROZAKI'S INEPTITUDE? SIMPLY A WHIM?

IT'S TRUE I THOUGHT IT QUESTIONABLE.

THE ZEROZAKI FAMILY

OUTSIDE OF THE FAMILY, THEY GIVE NO LEEWAY.

ALL WHO ARE ENEMIES ARE KILLED.

BUT RATHER LEFT ALIVE TO SERVE AS A WITNESS?!

NAGUMA DIDN'T SURVIVE.

THAT WOMAN ULTIMATELY JOINED FORCES WITH US FOR MONEY.

I ALSO REALIZED THAT SHE WAS HIDING HER TRUE APPEARANCE.

NO, NO, NO!!

WAS BECAUSE I HAD THE CONFIDENCE TO CONTROL HER.

BUT THE REASON I JOINED FORCES WITH HER DESPITE THAT,

IF BY CHANCE,

BUT,

HAD SET UP THIS ALL UP FROM THE BEGINNING, THEN..

THAT WOMAN... POSSIBLY THROUGH THE TOKINOMIYA,

N... NONSENSE THAT CANNOT BE TRUSTED...

NONSENSE... HUH?

IF THIS WAS YOUR FIRST MEETING WITH MY BROTHER ...

IT WOULD HAVE BEEN IMPOSSIBLE TO MAKE HIM RECOGNIZE YOU.

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE.

ISN'T IT BECAUSE THEY DO SUCH IMPOSSIBLE THINGS THAT THEY'RE CALLED THE "CURSING NAMES"?

And for starters, you can't underesti-mate the human brain.

By simply putting a picture and another similar one at the edge of a person's field of vision, they're able to recognize it.

And after simply imitating my appear-ance,

All she had to do was draw out your fear from a past experience.

That's the sort of world this is.

THERE'S BEEN AT LEAST ONE TIME WHEN YOU ALMOST MET WITH DEATH, RIGHT?

BECAUSE HE'S NEVER MET MANKIND'S STRONGEST.

AND IF YOUR THEORY WAS CORRECT,

IT WOULD'VE BEEN IMPOSSIBLE TO SHOW ANIKI THE IMAGE OF CRIMSON.

B...

BUT...

You can image the fight from just that.

There was a red cloth nailed next to the corpse.

I can tell from the cuts that Aniki had a pretty rough fight.

And the fact that she mimicked me,

is probably because I'm the least cooperative of the Zerozaki.

B-

BUT-

THE IDEAL CONDITIONS FOR A DECEPTION.

UNLIKELY TO BE FOUND, WITH A CHARACTERISTIC APPEARANCE.

Am I wrong?

If the objective wasn't to kill, there's no need to use someone famous.

BESIDES,

FOR STARTERS, I HAVEN'T HAD THE TIME TO LAY HANDS ON YOUR SISTER.

I'VE BEEN SO BUSY WITH MY ACTIVITIES THAT I HAVE WHAT'S CALLED AN "IRONCLAD ALIBI".

I'VE BEEN BUSY DISMEMBERING PEOPLE IN KYOTO YOU SEE.

KA HA HA HA

A GIVEN ROLE.

AN ARRANGED STAGE.

A SCRIPTED FARCE.

A COMEDY.

WERE MANIPULATED BY THE LIKES OF THE TOKINOMIYA...?

THE SAWARABI...

WHO'S TO BELIEVE THIS ZEROZAKI'S WORDS?

CALM DOWN.

IN THE END, NONE OF IT MATTERS IN THIS SITUATION.

BUT WELL, NONE OF THAT MATTERS, DOES IT?

KAHAHA.

SINCE I'M HERE, I'LL GO ALONG WITH THIS COMEDY.

EITHER WAY, THE WORLD IS FOOL OR BE FOOLED.

LET'S KILL EACH OTHER IN ORDER TO BREATHE.

WE'LL KILL EACH OTHER AS IF IT WERE LIKE BREATHING.

I'M A HOMICIDAL MONSTER, AND YOU'RE A HITMAN.

IF WE HAVE SPECIAL WEAPONS, WE DON'T NEED WORDS.

"I'M" NOT KIND LIKE "HIM" THOUGH.

I'LL KILL YOU AND TAKE YOU APART, THEN LINE UP THE PIECES,

AND HANG THEM FOR SHOW.

QUESTION 19 END

ZEROZAKI SOUSHIKI NO NINGEN SHIKEN

by NisiOisiN and SHIOMIYA Iruka



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Zerozaki Soushiki no Ningen Shiken v4 c20

Credits

Translator: choiboy84

Proofreader: Yukiko-san

Cleaner: Ell

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QUESTION 20

THE ONLY TWO I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO KILL UNTIL NOW ARE "THE IMAGE REFLECTED OFF THE MIRROR" AND "MANKIND'S STRONGEST".

I WON'T LOSE, EVEN TO THE NIOUNOMIYA WHEN IT COMES TO TECHNIQUE.

ALTHOUGH I'M THE LOWEST RANKED AS A HOMICIDAL MONSTER,

LET'S DO THIS, YOU AND ME.

NOW, LET'S DO THIS.

LET'S HANG UP ALL THE WORTHLESS TALK FOR THIS DECISIVE BATTLE.

FAIR AND SQUARE-

QUESTION 20

...THAT'S RIGHT.

NO MATTER WHO KILLED MY SISTER, THE SITUATION DOESN'T CHANGE.

DON'T BE DECEIVED.

NO MATTER WHAT THAT SKILL IS, IT'S LIKELY MEANT FOR MIDRANGE BATTLE.

I NEED TO BE WARY OF THE "LIMIT SKILL".

JUST THINK ABOUT DEFEATING THIS GUY RIGHT NOW.

HE'D HAVE NO REASON TO GO THROUGH THE TROUBLE OF EXPOSING HIMSELF BEFORE ME.

IF IT WERE A SKILL SPECIALIZING IN LONG RANGE,

A 3M RANGE AT BEST.

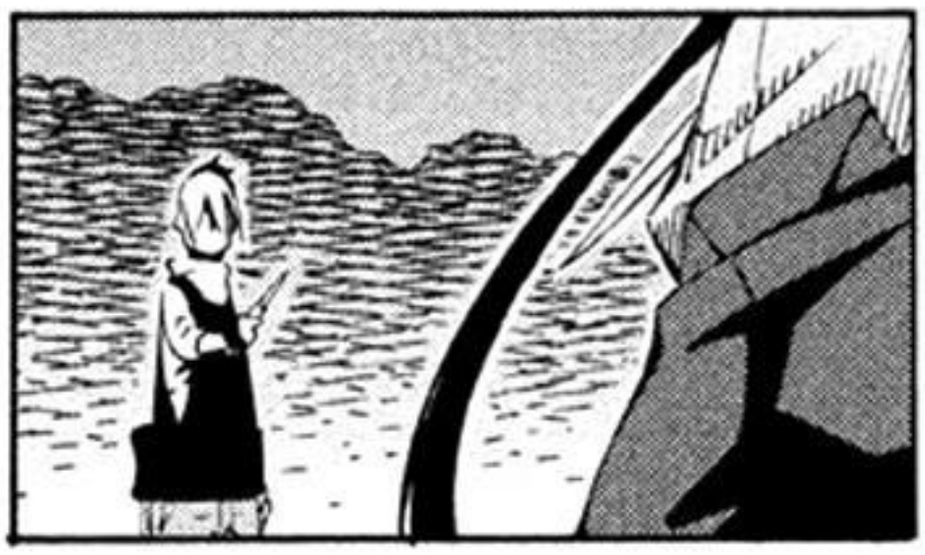
5M... NO,

USING IT BEFORE ME EARLIER HAS BECOME YOUR UNDOING, HASN'T IT, ZEROZAKI?

IN OTHER WORDS... AS LONG AS I DON'T LET EVEN THE SMALLEST OF MOVEMENTS SLIP BY ME,

THERE'S NO WAY HE CAN BRING IT OUT AGAIN WITHOUT ANY PREPARATORY MOVEMENTS.






I CAN COUNTER HIS ATTACK.


.....

!?

NO, IT'S JUST-

WHAT IS IT THIS TIME...?

KAHAHA, YOU'RE ASKING ME WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT?

WELL, I'M NOT MUMBLING TO MYSELF HERE.

I CAN UNDERSTAND WHY "HE" WOULD FALL FOR IT.

I JUST THINK THAT THIS IS REALLY CONVENIENT.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!

.....

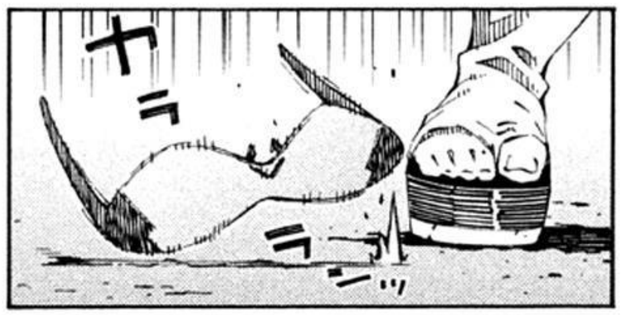






I'M SAYING, THE JOKE ON YOU.
DUMB-ASS.







ガバッ

ガバッ

ガバッ

ガバッ

JUST AS I THOUGHT, THIS DOESN'T FEEL TOO GOOD, DOES IT?

ゴソゴソ

AHH, I KNEW IT.

KILLING SOMEONE, THAT IS.

WHAT ?!

SHE HASN'T EVEN STOPPED HER BLEEDING. WITH ALL THE BLOOD SHE'S LOST, THERE'S NO WAY SHE'D BE ABLE TO MOVE SO...

IMPOSSIBLE!!

St...

String...?!

BUT, "LIMIT SKILL",

WITH ANIKI'S PRONUNCIATION, IT SOUNDS LIKE HE'S SAYING "LIMIT SKILL",

Actually comes from "bending bowstring"*.

TL note: This is a play on words in Japanese.

YOU ...

YOU BASTA AARDS !!

HIS OBJECTIVE WHEN HE FIRST APPEARED BEFORE ME WAS TO STOP MUTOH IORI'S BLEEDING AND TO RETRIEVE THE SCISSORS.

They got me.

HE WRAPPED HER ARM AND THE SCISSORS IN HIS STRINGS.

BACK THEN,

AS A RESULT,

AND WITH CONFIDENCE PRESENTED HIS INFERENCES AND DREW MY ATTENTION.

I ENDED UP BEING BLINDSIDED BY THOSE TWO.

THERE WAS NO BASIS TO ANY OF IT.

EVEN THAT ARGUMENT WAS ALL JUST AN ACT FROM THE BEGINNING.

EVERYTHING THIS GUY WAS SAYING,

THAT'S RIGHT... JUST THINK ABOUT IT.

BUT HE STILL SPOKE OF AN ALIBI? THAT'S JUST NONSENSE.

FOR STARTERS, IF HE REALLY DIDN'T KILL MY SISTER,

HE WOULDN'T HAVE KNOWN THE DATE OR TIME OF HER DEATH.

IN THE END, THEY WERE BASED ON NOTHING BUT ASSUMPTIONS.

EVEN THE TALK OF TOKINOMIYA, AND THE PREREQUISITES AND MATERIALS FOR HIS INFERENCES;

IT'S NOT A TRUMP CARD, BUT A HIDDEN CARD.

"LIMIT", IN OTHER WORDS, IS A TYPE OF CONCEALED WEAPON.

THE "LIMIT SKILL" AS WELL.

THAT WOULD ALSO EXPLAIN WHY MY BROTHER RUSHED IN UNKNOWINGLY.

IF HE DIDN'T USE THIS SKILL WHEN HE KILLED MY SISTER, THEN THERE IS NO MYSTERY.

THEN IS THIS THE GUY WHO KILLED MY SISTER AFTER ALL?

IT'S QUITE UNCLEAR.

WHERE DOES THE LIE BEGIN, AND WHERE DOES THE TRUTH END?

IT'S ALL GREY.

BUT IF HE DRAMATIZED THE TRUTH TO SHAKE ME, IT'S HARD TO THINK THAT ALL OF IT WAS A LIE.

BUT REGARDLESS, IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO THINK THAT ALL OF IT WAS TRUE.

IF SO, WAS HIS SPEECH UNTIL EARLIER A DOWNRIGHT LIE?

A joke...

THIS TOO IS WHAT YOU CALL PROSTITUTION OF KNOWLEDGE.

YOU DAMN CO-WAR-

HEY, HEY, HEY!

THERE'S NO WAY I'D FACE YOU FAIR AND SQUARE AFTER YOU KILLED ANIKI.

はぁ

YOU ARE BOTH PROS.

LET'S AT LEAST BE RE-SPECTABLE IN THE END.

THAT'S NOT RIGHT, IS IT, SAWARABI HAWATARI-KUN?

A WHOLE AS THREE?

DOES THAT MEAN YOU'RE GOOD-FOR-NOTHINGS THAT DON'T EVEN COUNT AS A WHOLE PERSON?

JUST DO YOUR BEST NOT TO HOLD US BACK










SO WE'RE THE ONLY ONES LEFT.
.....



HOW-EVER...

I CAN SEE THE DIFFER-ENCE IN STRENGTH.

I CANNOT RETREAT.

ｷﾘｯ

IF I SACRIFICE A HAND OR A FOOT...

.....

IN-EXPERI-ENCED...

NO MATTER WHAT, I'M TWO HANDS SHORT TO STOP HIM.

!!

NO STOPPING!

NII-SAN!!

1……

2



EACH OF US THREE UNDER-STOOD OUR ROLES,

WITH-OUT A SINGLE SIGN,

THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME.

AND THAT WAS THE MOMENT WE BECAME A WHOLE AS THREE.

THERE ARE WAYS TO FIGHT BECAUSE WE ARE THREE.

IT'S NOT THAT WE ARE A FULL-FLEDGED WHOLE AS THREE.

THERE ARE THINGS WE CAN DO BECAUSE WE ARE THREE.

AFTER MORE THAN 10 YEARS...

THE POWER WE FINALLY OBTAINED,

IMPOSSIBLE.

THE ZEROZAKI FAMILY, WHO ARE TIED BY THE ACT OF SPILLING BLOOD.

FAMILY... FAMILY, YOU SAY?

YET THEIR TEAMWORK WAS SO FLUID IT MADE EVERYTHING SEEM PRE-PLANNED.

THEY'RE NOT EVEN BOUND BY BLOOD, AND THIS SHOULD BE THEIR FIRST TIME MEETING.

EVEN THOUGH THEY KILL PEOPLE,

EVEN THOUGH THEY ARE HOMICIDAL MONSTERS,

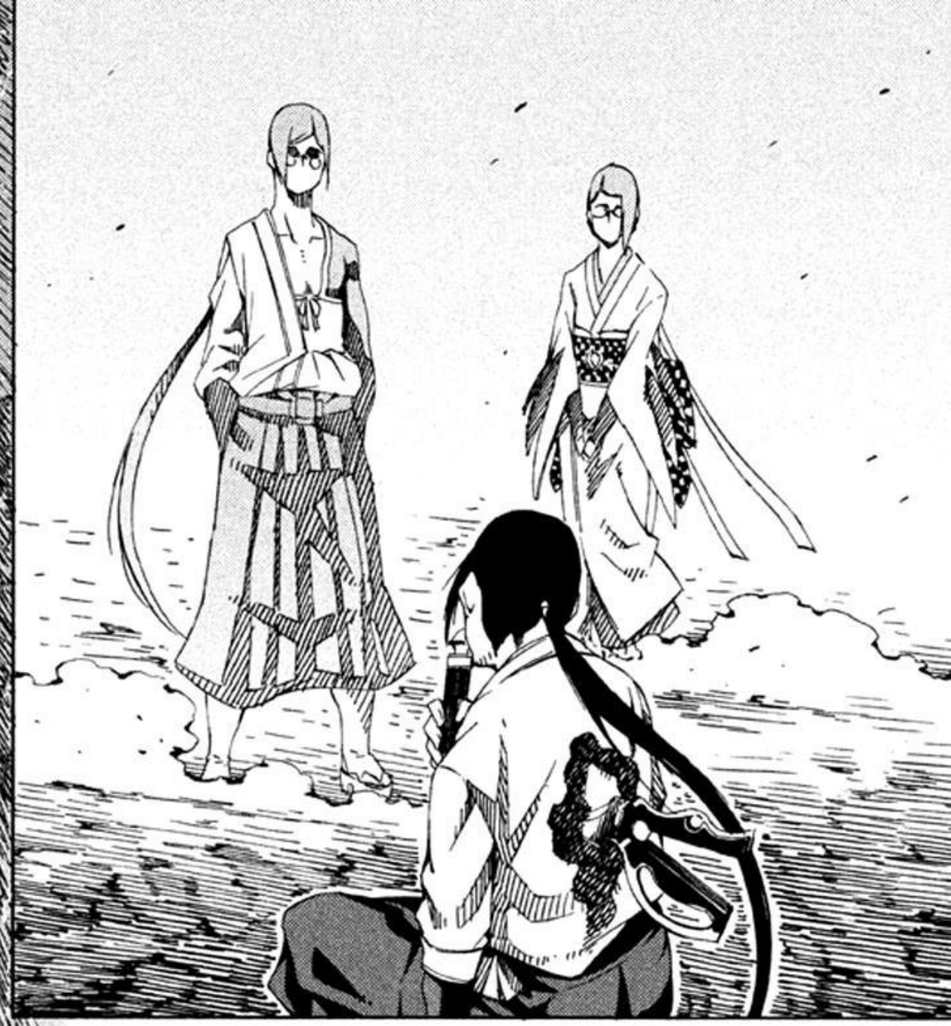
SO I LOST FROM THE MOMENT I FORGOT SOMETHING AS OBVIOUS AS THAT.

A WHOLE AS THREE.

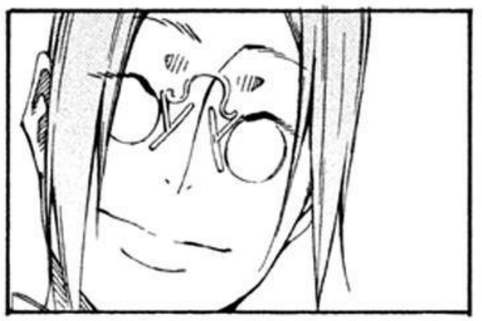
"FAIL".

THOSE WHO DON'T HOLD THEIR FAMILY DEAR,











YOU LOT...

ARE... THE,

WORST...



WE KNOW.

QUESTION 20 END

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QUESTION 21

QUESTION 21

TCH!



……

I GOT-

YAWWP!

ゴゥ

IT'S ONLY BEEN 3 MONTHS AND 6 DAYS, BUT...

THAT APPEAR-ANCE IS QUITE COMICAL.

HITO-SHIKI.

YO, ANIKI...

BEEN A WHILE.

なな…

UFU FU.

BECAUSE I KNEW YOU WERE IN THE VICINITY.

YOU HAVE TO BE PRE-PARED FOR ANYTHING, RIGHT?

BUT WHY DO YOU HAVE THIS SORT OF TRAP SET UP?

THINK YOU CAN LET ME DOWN NOW.

THE BLOOD'S RUSHING TO MY HEAD.

OH, THAT'S RIGHT.

...IS THAT RIGHT?

BY THE WAY,

.....

?

BUT, BEFORE I DO THAT,

Eh!

Wait.

HOLD -

SOME DISCIPLINE IS IN ORDER FOR THE LITTLE BROTHER WHO WOULD TRY TO KILL HIS OLDER BROTHER.

WHAM

That.

ANY THOUGHTS ON LETTING IT GO?

HEY, ANIKI.

You mean this?

.....

TCH

ARE YOU SAYING THAT I DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT YET?

UNLIKE A PLAYBOY LIKE YOU, I GIVE MY EVERYTHING TO BOTH WOMEN AND WEAPONS. THIS IS PRECIOUS TO ME.

I WON'T GIVE IT UP SO EASILY.

THEN LET'S DO THIS.

AS A... MEMENTO?

AS WASTE MANAGE-MENT.

I'll help myself to those scissors when you die, Aniki.

DO WHATEVER YOU WANT.

……

WELL,

TECHNI-CALLY, YOU COULD DO THAT.

KAHAHA, THEN-

THAT MEANS I CAN KILL YOU AND TAKE IT BY FORCE.

WHAT THE HELL.. YOU SEEM CONFIDENT.

ソ ほ?

DO YOU THINK YOU COULD KILL ME WHENEVER YOU WANT?

Or,

ARE YOU PUTTING ME DOWN, SAYING SOMEONE LIKE ME CAN'T KILL YOU?

I WONDER.

Ufu fu.

THIS IS JUST FOR INSTANCE-

THEN,

.....

Who would remain standing?

IF THE TWO OF US HAD A DEATH-MATCH,

SO THE QUESTION ITSELF IS POINT-LESS.

EITHER WAY, I HAVE NO INTENTION OF HAVING A DEATHMATCH WITH YOU.





BUT-

IF YOU WANT TO KNOW WHO'D REMAIN STANDING, THAT WOULD BE ME WITHOUT QUESTION.



IT WOULD PROBABLY BE YOU,

IF IT WAS A QUESTION OF WHO MIGHT KILL THEIR OPPONENT,



EVEN IF THERE ARE "THOSE WHO WOULD KILL THEIR OLDER BROTHERS" IN THIS WORLD,

THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS "ONE WHO WOULD KILL THEIR LITTLE BROTHER".

BE-CAUSE,

"ONE WHO WOULD KILL THEIR LITTLE BROTHER."

WE'RE TALKING ABOUT THE WORLD HERE.

HUH?

THAT'S NOT TRUE.

THAT PERSON'S NO LONGER HUMAN OR EVEN A DEMON.

"ONE WHO WOULD KILL THEIR LITTLE BROTH-ER."

AT THAT POINT-

THEY'RE JUST A BEAST; A MONSTER.

THEY'VE GOTTA BE OUT THERE SOME-WHERE.

They can no longer be called an "older brother".

kaha ha.

I SEE.

That's pretty.

RIDICU-
LOUS.

COME ON HITO-SHIKI,

I'M GOING TO LEAVE YOU BEHIND IF YOU KEEP PLAYING AROUND.

ACHOO

MAN,

WHY DID THIS HAPPEN TO ME?

ぐすっ

ぐすん…

もぐ

もぐ

WELL WHAT CAN YOU DO?

IORI'S HANDS ARE LIKE THIS NOW.

AND I CAN'T MOVE AROUND IN CLOTHES COVERED IN BLOOD AND MUD, CAN I?

...I KNOW.

DON'T WORRY, IT'S NOT LIKE I'M GONNA LEAVE YOU BEHIND OR ANYTHING.

ぎゅっ

AND I KNOW A SKILLED ARTIFICIAL LIMBS MAKER FOR THOSE ARMS.

IT'LL ACTUALLY BE MORE CONVEN-IENT THAN BEFORE.

AND THEN, I'LL INTRODUCE YOU TO THE BEST OF THE WORST ZEROZAKI AS FAR AS I KNOW.

AFTER THAT, YOU CAN FOLLOW THEM AROUND AND LIVE, OR DIE, OR DECEIVE, OR BE DECEIVED. WHATEVER YOU WANT.

SINCE IT'S A REQUEST FROM ANIKI.

UNTIL THEN, IT'LL BE A PAIN, BUT I'LL LOOK AFTER YOU.

HMM?

HITO-SHIKI-KUN...

It's too bad,

About Soushiki-san, isn't it?

AND IT'S PROBABLY ALL RIGHT. IT'S ANIKI AFTER ALL.

HE PROBABLY SETTLED ALL HIS AFFAIRS BEFORE-HAND.

UN-FORTUNATELY, THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO FOR HIM NOW.

WAS IT REALLY OKAY TO LEAVE HIM LIKE THAT?

THAT WAY, IT'LL BE LIKE NOTHING HAPPENED TO BEGIN WITH IN THE SURFACE WORLD.

AND DEPENDING ON THE SITUATION, MEMORIES WILL BE ALTERED.

THE INFORMA-TION WILL BE MANIP-ULATED,

THE CORPSES WILL BE HIDDEN,

THAT'S THE SORT OF WORLD YOU CHOSE.

THEY'LL PROBABLY BE TREATED AS HAVING BEEN TRANSFERRED SOMEWHERE FAR FOR WORK, OR HAVING DIED IN AN ACCIDENT.

YOUR FAMILY AND THE OTHER PUPPETS TOO,

WELL,

DURING ANIKI'S TIME, AN ENTIRE CITY DISAPPEARED, SO JUST THINK OF THIS AS HAVING ENDED IN THE BEST POSSIBLE WAY.

UMM...

...HITOSHIKI-KUN,

.....

WOULD YOU HAVE PREFERRED IT IF I HAD DIED AND SOUSHIKI-SAN HAD LIVED?

HUH?

WAIT, DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE THINKING ANIKI DIED BECAUSE OF YOU.

NOT REALLY.

HITOSHIKI-KUN... AREN'T YOU LONELY?

LONE-LY?

THERE'S NO ROOM FOR SYM-PATHY.

FOR STARTERS, ANIKI STUCK HIS NOSE INTO THIS OF HIS OWN ACCORD.

Because of that, Soushiki-san said he created a family.

Homicidal monsters live in solitude.

COMPARED TO REASON, EMOTIONS AREN'T ALL THAT GREAT.

THIS IS THE LESSON I LEARNED FROM "HIM" WHILE I WAS WANDERING ABOUT.

BESIDES, TALKING ABOUT BEING LONELY OR SAD AFTER KILLING PEOPLE, THAT'S BEING SELFISH.

I TOLD YOU RIGHT? I'M COMPLETELY FINE EVEN IF I'M ALONE.

BUT STILL, AREN'T EMOTIONS WHAT THEY ARE BECAUSE YOU CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT THEM?

...IT'S NOT THAT I DON'T UNDER-STAND, BUT-

Don't exist.

Emotions that can't be suppressed by reason,

YOU'RE PRETTY COLD, AREN'T YOU, HITOSHIKI-KUN?

.....

Wasn't Soushiki-san your only family?

ANIKI,

HE USED TO HIT ME A LOT.

Aniki looked after me.

Aniki found me.

Aniki raised me.

Aniki worried about me.

Aniki saved me.

Aniki... cared for me.

About him.

I KNOW ANIKI BETTER THAN I'D LIKE TO.

THERE'S NOTHING BUT STUFF THAT WOULD PISS ME OFF AND I CAN'T HELP BUT WANT TO FORGET, BUT

I RE-MEMBER. NOT MUCH I CAN DO ABOUT THAT.

IT WON'T ERASE THE PAST.

SO ANIKI AND I AREN'T ALONE.

IT'S THE SAME WHETHER HE'S HERE OR NOT.

ANIKI WAS DEFINITELY HERE.

I KNOW EVERY-THING-

YUP.

HE IS.

AND A HELPLESS IDIOT ON TOP OF THAT.

THOUGH AT FIRST, I THOUGHT HE WAS JUST SOME PERVERT.

ME TOO.

I KNOW.

HIS LEVEL AS A HOMICIDAL MONSTER WAS HIGH, BUT THAT'S AS FAR AS HE WENT.

.....

I AGREE WITH THAT, BUT THAT'S NOT SOMETHING LIMITED TO ANIKI.

SOUSHIKI-SAN, HE... PROBABLY ALWAYS THOUGHT OF HIMSELF AS A "FAILURE",

DIDN'T HE?

EVERYONE LIVES THEIR LIVES WHILE EMBRACING SOME DISSAT-ISFACTION WITH THEM-SELVES.

JUST LIKE HOW YOU THOUGHT OF YOUR LIFE AS AN "ESCAPE" UNTIL A LITTLE EARLIER,

HE HAD A DEAR LITTLE BROTHER LIKE ME.

And found a mischievous little sister like you.

I UNDERSTAND IT'S EASY TO SYMPATHIZE, BUT DON'T MAKE ANIKI OUT TO BE THE PROTAGONIST OF SOME TRAGIC PLAY.

ANIKI ENJOYED HIS LIFE QUITE A BIT.

He even found himself a successor to his scissors.

...ARE YOU SURE THIS IS ALL RIGHT?

HMM? WHAT?

WELL... DOES THIS MEAN I HAVE THE RIGHT,

TO CARRY ON THE SCISSORS, AND THAT I "PASS"?

YOU KNOW, FROM THE START, I BET THIS WASN'T ABOUT HAVING RIGHTS OR ANYTHING.

?

NO MATTER HOW YOU THINK ABOUT IT, YOU AND I BOTH OBVIOUSLY "FAI-

YOU KNOW ...

... AHH, WAIT. THAT'S RIGHT.

NO DOUBT HE WOULD HAVE SAID THIS.

BECAUSE IT'S ANIKI WE'RE TALKING ABOUT.

"What idiot would test his own family."

RIGHT?

I'M GONNA LEAVE YOU BEHIND IF YOU DON'T KEEP UP.

NOW THEN, LET'S GET OUT OF THIS TOWN BEFORE A RED MONSTER CATCHES UP TO US.

AHH, WAIT FOR ME.

WE'RE FAMILY, SO LET'S BE MORE LOVEY-DOVEY~

ドドド

ドドド

I CAME TO END THINGS,

HOMICIDAL MONSTERS!

QUESTION 21 END

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QC: Ell

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HIS WIREWORK-LIKE BODY IS HIS DISTINCT TRAIT.

A BUSINESS SUIT AND A TIE.

A PAIR OF SCISSOR-SHAPED BLADES ARE HIS FAVORITE WEAPON.

HE LIVED FOR HIS FAMILY UNTIL THE VERY END.

HOM-ICIDAL MONSTER.

FINAL QUESTION

ZERO-ZAKI SOU-SHIKI.

THE ZERO-ZAKI FAMILY'S ELDEST SON

ALIAS: "MIND RENDER"

FINAL QUESTION



YOU KNOW, ANIKI...

HE WAS A GUY WHO WAS NEVER ABLE TO RUN AWAY FROM HIS SENSE OF GUILT.

HE WAS THE TYPE OF GUY TO FEEL RESPONSIBLE FOR THINGS HE SHOULDN'T FEEL RESPONSIBLE FOR.

IT MADE HIM BELIEVE IN THE POTENTIAL OF HUMANS; THAT'S WHY HE TESTED THEM.

I'M SURE YOU CAN IMAGINE, AFTER HEARING THE NAME HE SHARES WITH HIS OWN WEAPON.

"WHEN PEOPLE DIE, THERE IS ALWAYS 'EVIL' THERE."

IT WAS HIS FAVORITE LINE.

WHO EXACTLY DO YOU THINK WAS "EVIL"?

BUT IF THAT'S TRUE, IN THIS PARTIC-ULAR CASE,

NAGUMA-SAN SAID THIS TOO, BUT

HAVING THE DISPOSI-TION TO KILL PEOPLE AS YOUR WAY OF LIFE IS DEFINITELY "EVIL", ISN'T IT?

?

ISN'T IT OBVIOUSLY THE ZEROZAKI?

WHY DO YOU ASK?

THE SAWARABI WERE SIMILAR, BUT ULTIMATELY, THEIR "KILLING" WAS THEIR "JOB".

AND THEIR NATURE SEEMED PRETTY UPRIGHT.

FOR STARTERS, I DON'T THINK THIS WORLD IS SO SIMPLE AS TO BE EASILY SEPARATED INTO "GOOD" AND "EVIL",

TO BE SPOKEN OF IN TERMS OF DUALISM.

IT'S JUST,

I PRETTY MUCH HAD THE SAME OPINION AS ANIKI UNTIL RECENTLY, BUT

THE SITUA-TION'S CHANGED SO THAT I CAN'T HELP BUT CHANGE MY THOUGHTS A BIT.

?

THE SAME GOES FOR THE "ORDINARY" THAT ANIKI YEARNED FOR.

IF SOMETHING SO EASILY DISCERNIBLE EXISTED, THAT IN IT-SELF WOULD BE A MIRA-CLE.

Wouldn't that mean that you have nothing at all?

"HAVING INDIVIDUALITY MEANS THAT SOMETHING IS LACKING." -THIS WAS ANOTHER FAVORITE LINE OF ANIKI'S.

THEN, IF YOU LACK INDI-VIDUALI-TY,

IT SOUNDS LIKE NOTHING MORE THAN A CONCLU-SION A FOOL WOULD COME TO.

FROM MY POINT OF VIEW, YEARNING FOR THAT "ORDINARY" SOUNDS LIKE NOTHING MORE THAN THE DESIRE TO BE A PART OF "THAT BIG GROUP OF OTHERS" AND TO RIDE ON THE RAILS OF SAFETY AND STABILITY.

THAT GUY I MET IN KYOTO,

WASN'T "BAD" AT ALL.

BUT-

THAT'S THE TYPE OF UNBELIEV-ABLE GUY HE WAS.

HE WAS A LIAR, AND HE WAS SUCH A SKEPTIC THAT HE DIDN'T EVEN THINK OF PEOPLE AS PEOPLE OR TREAT THEM AS IF THEY WERE.

REGARDLESS, I DOUBT HE HAD A SINGLE CROSS OR OUNCE OF RESPON-SIBILITY TO BEAR.

He was way beyond either me or Aniki.

He mass murdered so many people, an average person wouldn't be able to remember the number.

Even though he isn't "bad" at all,

He kills through his existence alone.

HE'S PROBABLY CLOSER TO THAT THAN WE ARE, BUT THAT'S WRONG TOO.

HE DOESN'T REALLY FIT INTO ANY SET CATEGORY OF DISPOSITION LIKE WE DO.

.....

HE SORT OF SOUNDS LIKE A CURSING NAME.

Is just a sharp edge and bloodshed.

WHAT'S NEEDED FOR PEOPLE TO DIE,

THAT YOU DON'T NEED "EVIL" FOR PEOPLE TO DIE.

BUT WELL, THAT'S EXACTLY WHY I THINK,

ガタン

ガタン

KA-HAHA.

GIVE IT UP.

HE ISN'T INTO GIRLS WITH SHORT HAIR.

YOU'LL BE KILLED WITHOUT QUESTION.

H-MM...

THAT ALMOST MAKES ME WANT TO MEET HIM.

THAT PERSON THAT'S JUST LIKE HITO-SHIKI-KUN.

KYOTO'S GOING TO BE THE WORK OF ART THAT BRINGS ME FAME AFTER DEATH.

AS KIND AS HE IS, HE SHOWS NO MERCY.

HE'S THE COMPLETELY OPPOSITE OF ME WHO DOES SHOW MERCY BUT ISN'T KIND AT ALL.

Ufufu, that too...

...doesn't sound so bad.

HITO-SHIKI-KUN,

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO NOW?

THERE ARE ABOUT 2 PEOPLE THAT I NEVER WANT TO SEE AGAIN IN THIS COUNTRY.

AS SOON AS MY BUSINESS IS DONE, I'M GETTING OUT OF HERE.

CAN'T GO WITH YOU?

.....

YOU'RE ACTUALLY PRETTY MUCH MY TYPE, HITOSHIKI-KUN.

THAT MAKES ME WANT TO THINK IT OVER,

BUT I CAN'T WAIT FOR YOU TO IMPROVE YOUR SKILLS.

BESIDES, YOU HAVE SOMETHING YOU HAVE TO DO, RIGHT?

I'm talking about revenge for Aniki.

I DON'T BELIEVE THOSE GUYS THOUGHT UP THIS INCIDENT ON THEIR OWN.

THERE SHOULD BE OTHER CONSPIRA-TORS.

IF YOU SAY YOU WANT TO BECOME FAMILY, THEN YOU CAN'T LET THEM GO.

AREN'T GOING FOR IT, HITOSHIKI-KUN?

FOR REVENGE ?

I WAS ONLY A PART OF THE FAMILY BECAUSE ANIKI INVITED ME.

PLUS, I'M NO GOOD WITH THAT HACK AND SLASH WORLD.

AS A MATTER OF FACT, I WOULDN'T RECOMMEND IT.

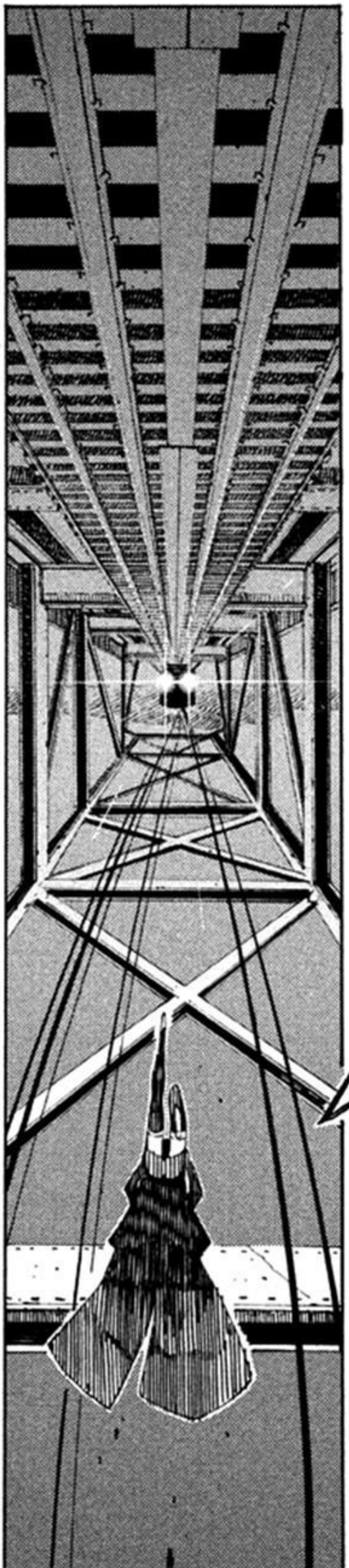
THAT WAS THE CHOICE YOU MADE, TO STOP RUNNING AND TO LIVE WITH FAMILY, RIGHT?

BUT WELL, FEEL FREE TO DO WHATEVER YOU WANT WHERE I'M NOT INVOLVED.

Ufufu.

I'LL SECRETLY BE CHEERING YOU ON FROM A PLACE YOU CAN'T SEE, JUST ENOUGH SO I DON'T GET CAUGHT.

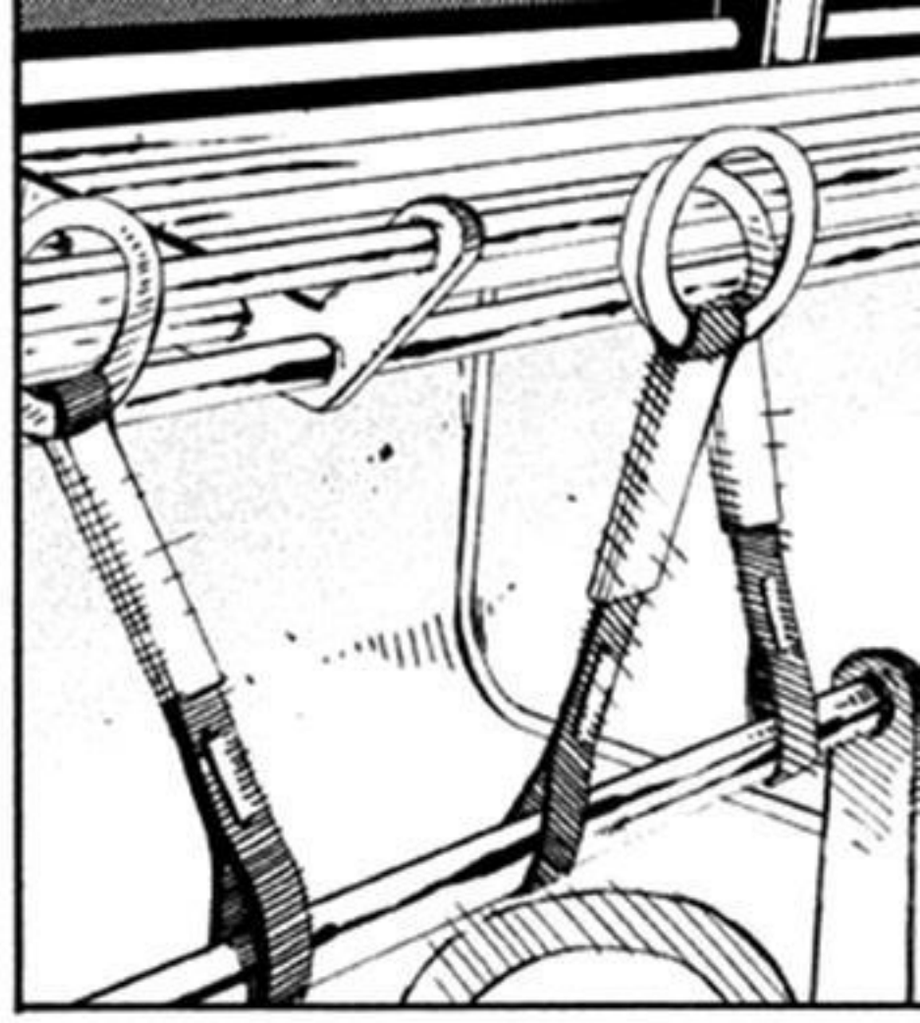
THANKS.





!?

HAH!



Unah~

Were stopped.

D... DID WE RUN INTO SOME-THING?

.....

NO, WE...

UNAH?!

!?

I WENT HERE AND THERE LOOKING ALL OVER FOR YOU, HITOSHIKI-KUN.

!?

IF YOU THINK YOU CAN KILL ME AND TAKE ME APART, THEN LINE UP THE PIECES AND HANG THEM FOR SHOW.

THEN GO AHEAD AND TRY TO KILL ME AND TAKE ME APART, THEN LINE UP THE PIECES AND HANG THEM FOR SHOW.

NOW-

HUH... OH NO.

IORI-CHAN LOST TOO MUCH BLOOD AND SHE'S SEEING A RED HALLUCINATION.

MAN...

WITH ALL SINCER-ITY,

THIS IS RIDICU-LOUS!

HITO-SHIKI-KUN ?!

GEEZ

DAAHHH

CRASH



ズシャ

YOU'RE HURT SO DON'T PUSH YOURSELF.

BESIDES, YOU UNDER-STAND NOW, RIGHT?

SHE ISN'T SOMEONE WE CAN GO AGAINST JUST BECAUSE THERE ARE TWO OF US HERE.

S... SOMEHOW ...

...YOU OKAY?

WAIT-

YOU LOOK FOR AN OPENING AND RUN FOR IT.

SORRY FOR NOT KEEPING MY PROMISE, BUT DEEP CRIMSON'S TARGET IS ME.

WHAT ARE YOU..?

HOW

THIS WHOLE TIME,

I LIVED MY LIFE THINKING THERE WAS NOWHERE I BELONGED.

EVEN AT HOME, OR AT SCHOOL, I COULDN'T WIPE AWAY THAT UNEASE.

EVEN WHEN I WAS WITH SOMEONE, DEEP IN MY HEART, I WAS ALONE.

UNLIKE OTHERS, THERE WAS SOMETHING OFF ABOUT ME.

I THOUGHT I'D SLOWLY DIE.

AND WHILE HOLDING ON TO THE FEELING THAT I'D NEVER BE ABLE TO REACH ANY DESTINATION,

SO I RAN AWAY FROM ALL SORTS OF THINGS,

THIS IS PROBABLY MY LAST STOP.

BUT STILL,

I WON'T GIVE UP.

HAVING STRAYED FROM MY PATH, I CAN'T REACH ANY DESTINATION NOW.

BECAUSE I'M NOT ALONE.

THAT'S WHY, I'M DONE NOW.

NO MORE RUNNING.

H- HEY.

GOOD BYE,

MUTOH IORI-CHAN.




آخ



THAT WAS CLOSE ...

OWAH!

Is my enemy.

BECAUSE THE FAMILY'S ENEMY-

I'LL FIGHT TOO.

I'LL ASSIST.

Thanks.

YOU KNOW, I'VE BEEN WON-DERING ABOUT ...

THIS SINCE EARLIER BUT I'VE NEVER SEEN YOUR FACE BEFORE. ARE YOU...

.....

A MEMBER OF THE ZEROZAKI FAMILY?

YES, THAT'S RIGHT.

MAN,

WHAT A FATEFUL LIFE, RIGHT?

FAULTY PROD-UCT?

NOW
THEN,

ZEROZAKI MAIORI,

WILL COM-MENCE ...

ZERO-ZAKI!

FINAL QUESTION END

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ZEROZAKI SOUSHIKI NO NINGEN SHIKEN

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HEY, SOU-CHAN.

IF SOMETHING WERE TO HAPPEN TO US,

PLEASE... TAKE CARE OF THIS CHILD.

SUPPLEMENTARY EXAM

THIS CHILD, IS THE ONLY CHILD BORN BETWEEN FELLOW ZEROZAKI.

AND BECAUSE HE IS THE EPITOME OF THE ZEROZAKI, THE DESTRUCTION OF THE FAMILY DWELLS WITHIN HIM.

AS THE ELDEST SON,

PROTECT HIM.

I... I...

?

I HAVE NO MEMORIES OF THE TIME BEFORE YOU SAVED ME...

SO, SIBLINGS... FAMILY...

I DON'T KNOW HOW TO APPROACH THINGS LIKE THAT.

Ufufu.

IT'S ALL RIGHT.

Through this child, I'm sure you'll find the true meaning.

Of becoming a family.

SUPPLEMENTARY EXAM

"MIND RENDER"
ZEROZAKI SOUSHIKI

HEY, REN.

HAS THAT GUY HITOSHIKI BEEN BEHAVING HIMSELF LATELY?

HMM?

WHAT IS THE MATTER ...

IF HE BOTHERS YOU SO MUCH, WHY DON'T YOU GO SEE HIM YOURSELF?

YOU'RE FAMILY AFTER ALL.

Hmph!

I'M BUSY IN MY OWN RIGHT.

... BESIDE

EVEN THOUGH WE'RE BOTH "ZEROZAKI",

IT'S NOT LIKE EITHER OF US THINKS OF THE OTHER AS FAMILY.

OUS?

"SEAMLESS PIOUS" ZEROZAKI KISHISHIKI

REN.

YOU'RE TOO SOFT ON HIM.

IF YOU LET HIM RUN LOOSE, HE'S SURE TO CAUSE PROBLEMS.

I COULDN'T CARE LESS ABOUT WHAT HAPPENS TO HIM, BUT-

That a guy like that...

That a Zerozaki that's inherited Zerozaki blood exists. If word gets out, we're going to see some groups that won't keep quiet about it.

If by chance that puts the entire family in danger, then I...

I'LL-

HOTEL...

I GOT IT, OUS.

I'LL GO OUT AND LOOK FOR HIM NOW.

IT'S TRUE THAT IT'S ALREADY BEEN HALF A YEAR SINCE I'VE ACTUALLY MET WITH HITOSHIKI.

WITH HIS PARENTS NOW DECEASED, AS HIS OLDER BROTHER, I HAVE TO MAKE SURE TO TRAIN HIM.

I'D FEEL BAD IF SOMETHING HORRIBLE WERE TO HAPPEN TO HIM BECAUSE HE WENT OUT INTO THE WORLD WHILE STILL UNABLE TO PROPERLY CLEAN UP AFTERWARDS.

ALTHOUGH HIS MURDERING SKILLS ARE PLENTY DEVELOPED,

BECAUSE THE WORLD AND SUMMER ARE FULL OF DANGERS!

OH? OUS?

WHAT AN IMPATIENT MAN.

THE LARGE TATTOO ON HIS FACE IS HIS DISTINCT TRAIT.

HE LIKES KNIVES AND ALTHOUGH HE USES THEM, HE DOESN'T HAVE A SPECIFIC WEAPON.

THE FAMILY'S COLLECTIVE VIEW OF HIM,

IS THAT HE'S UNUSUALLY ELUSIVE AND DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND.

ZERO-ZAKI HITO-SHIKI

HOMI-CIDAL MON-STER

"DIFFICULT TO UNDER-STAND"... IS HE?

THAT'S RIGHT ON THE MONEY.

ALTHOUGH, HITOSHIKI AND I ARE THE SAME WHEN IT COMES TO BEING ZEROZAKI WHO HAD NOTHING BEFORE BECOMING ZEROZAKI.

THAT TALENT. THAT DISPOSI-TION.

OUS ISN'T THE ONLY ONE WHO DOESN'T GET HITOSHIKI.

We're not on the same stage...

While we're in the same place.

THAT SOMETHING'S GONNA HAPPEN.

THERE'S SOME-ONE I REALLY WANNA MEET.

I HAVE NO IDEA WHO THEY ARE OR WHERE THEY ARE FROM, BUT WHEN I MEET THEM, I JUST KNOW...

I WORRY-

YOU'RE GOING TO END UP ALL ALONE.

AFTER WE DISAPPEAR BECAUSE OF SOMETHING LIKE THAT,

.....

ABOUT THAT.

Why don't you come out already?

I don't really enjoy being followed by men you know.

HEY, HEY.. WE'RE BOTH PROS HERE, RIGHT?

PUT THAT BOORISH, THREATENING TOOL AWAY.

.....

YOU...

You're from the Zerozaki family, aren't you?

WELL, WELL.

!

BECAUSE THAT IS ES-SENTIALLY WHAT THE ZEROZAKI ARE.

DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE SAYING RIGHT NOW?

BUT,

ALTHOUGH WE'VE BEEN AVOIDED AS TARGETS BECAUSE WE'RE THE ZEROZAKI FAMILY,

THE OPPOSITE COULD NEVER HAPPEN.

IF YOU WITHDRAW NOW, THIS WILL ALL BE WATER UNDER THE BRIDGE.

LIKE THE WHITE DOVE, I'M A MAN THAT LOVES PEACE AND JUSTICE.

DESPITE THAT, I'M AN ADVOCATE OF HARMONY.

I THINK THERE'S ROOM TO MAKE A DEAL HERE.

HOW ABOUT IT?

.....

YOU WON'T BE KILLED BY ME

AND I WON'T KILL YOU.

I THOUGHT YOU WOULD UNDER...

OHH.

GOOD, GOOD.

BANG

...
STAND.

NOT BEING FAMILY, I DIDN'T EXPECT YOU TO UNDERSTAND FROM THE START.

WELL ...

WILL BEGIN-

NOW THEN, I-

ZERO-ZAKI.

YOU'RE FROM THE ZEROZAKI FAMILY, AREN'T YOU?

SUR-PRISING-LY,

OUS'S CONCERNS MIGHT HAVE BEEN RIGHT ON THE MARK.


ガ!


!?


AND I WAS HOPING YOU'D BE CAPABLE OF A BIT MORE.


IT'S A PITY. TRULY A PITY.
NO PROMISE AT ALL.



You-

"Fail"

SO THIS MAN ISN'T A PRO AFTER ALL.

BUT THIS TECHNIQUE, THIS MOVEMENT.

THEY WOULD EVEN BRAVE DANGER TO ANTAGONIZE THE ZERO-ZAKI.

BUT WHO ON EARTH WOULD DO THIS? AND WHY?

WHICH MEANS SOMEONE STOLE HIS POTENTIALITY. A PITIFUL CIVILIAN-

...HMPH.

I SUPPOSE IS WHAT HE IS.

I MIGHT HAVE BEEN A BIT SOFT.

I'LL ADMIT IT.

VERY WELL.

AND GIVE HIM PLENTY OF TRAINING.

WHICH IS ALL THE MORE REASON I SHOULD FIND HITOSHIKI SOON

Because I know.

That acceptance is the start of a family.

EVEN IF YOU CAN'T UNDER-STAND,

EVEN IF WE'RE NOT ON THE SAME STAGE,

I WON'T ABANDON YOU.

.....

I SEE.

EVEN THOUGH HE'S A LITTLE BROTHER WHO'S TROUBLESOME TO EVEN ACCEPT,

THAT MIGHT BE EXACTLY WHY I'VE BEEN ABLE TO DO IT AS AN OLDER BROTHER.

So.. an older brother is such.

Because he has a little brother.

I CAN'T BE ON THE SAME STAGE AS YOU,

BUT AS YOUR OLDER BROTHER,

I pray from the bottom of my heart, that you can one day meet someone,

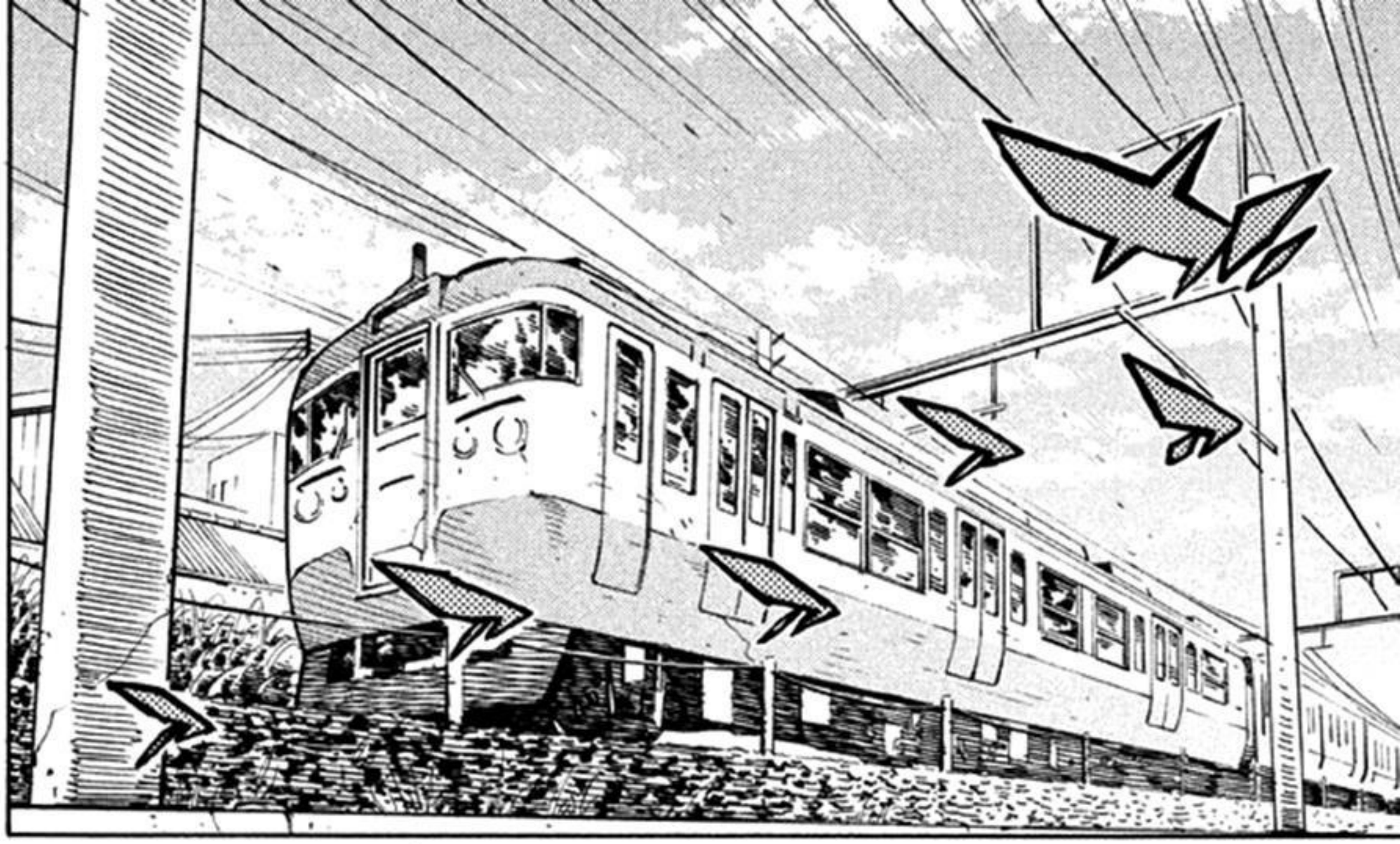
Who can be by your side.

BUT AT THIS RATE, MAYBE I WOULDN'T MIND ONE MORE.

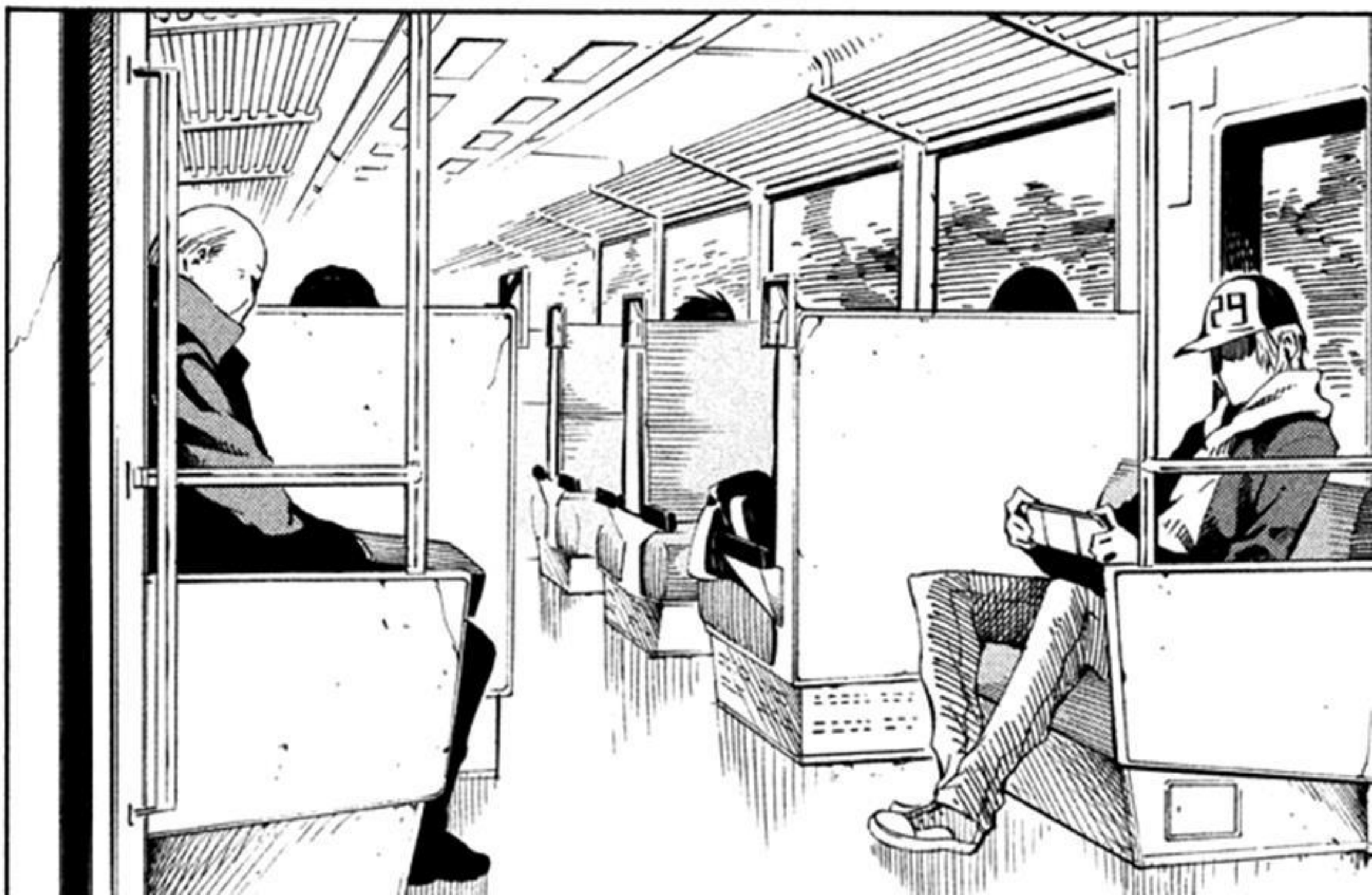
THEY OFTEN SAY THAT A CHILD IS CUTER THE STUPIDER THEY ARE,

UNTIL TELL, I'LL LOOK AFTER YOU TO SUCH A DEGREE THAT YOU START TO HATE ME.

IF POSSIBLE, I'D LIKE A LITTLE SISTER NEXT.




ダダン
ダダン


29

HMM...

ufufu.

IT'S AN IMPORTANT TOPIC, SO MAKE SURE YOU LISTEN CAREFULLY.

SINCE IT SEEMS LIKE YOU ALL HAVE BUSINESS WITH ME TOO,

I SUPPOSE I'LL GIVE A LECTURE UNTIL WE REACH THE STATION.

YES,

WHAT I WILL SPEAK OF,

IS "EVIL".

ZEROZAKI SOUSHIKI NO NINGEN SHIKEN 5　END　5



And so, if I were to suggest it, maybe I'd say something like "if you don't mind, please at least read 'Ningen Shiken'", with the intent of having you read just one book for now. Now that I think about it, I'm not even sure if there are other novelists whose works I've read entirely...



① Human Failure

This refers to Zerozaki Hitoshiki. In the "Zaregoto Series", sister to the "Ningen Series", the second book's title was "Kubishime Romanticist: Human Failure ・ Zerozaki Hitoshiki". In that book, he was called a "human failure"- well, he is homicidal monster after all. But having said that, even if each and every one of the other Zerozaki family members appeared in that world, I don't think they would've been called "human failures". Although the Zerozaki family itself is an irregularity in the underworld, even within their ranks, Zerozaki Hitoshiki was even more of an irregularity.



③ That's Ridiculous

Zerozaki Hitoshiki's signature phrase. It's unknown whether he really thinks of the things he refers to as being ridiculous. It's a phrase which corresponds to the protagonist's signature "I'm just kidding though" in the sister "Zaregoto Series" (I'm sorry for constantly bringing it up after saying it's all right if you haven't read it)- At this time, he's already met with "him", so he says "I'm just kidding" in the story.

② Faulty Product

This is what the protagonist of the sister "Zaregoto Series" is called- although, "human failure" and "faulty product" were only used between these two. They weren't necessarily names like "Mind Render". With these two being identical but complete opposites, like reflections in a mirror, these two series can indeed be called sisters (brothers?). But well, even if you haven't read it or know about it, it won't really be a problem. I'm going to go a bit off topic here, but looking back on my ten plus years as a novelist, I've put out quite a number of books, and I've come to believe that there are few people who have read them all. For instance, if a reader decided to read the original light novel after reading this comic version of "Zerozaki Soushiki no Ningen Shiken", there are seven books in the "Ningen Series" alone. It's quite an undertaking to read seven light novel books nowadays, isn't it? And the sister "Zaregeto Series", is nine books is it? That's 16 books all together. Even if you read 1 book a day, half a month will go by. If that's how it is, I can't just thoughtlessly suggest that, "if you don't mind, please read the light novels too!"

Human Exam

Past Questions 5

Author Nishio Ishin



⑥ Sawarabi Hawatari

The eldest son of the Sawarabi siblings. Long sword user.

Although he fought in a three man cell with his Sawarabi siblings, he actually had the resources to stand on his own. And truth is, he was headhunted by the fox-mask man, but thinking of his unreliable younger brother and sister, he turned down the scout, or something of the sort. That was the setting in the original work. There was no one around him to teach him that what he did was similar to what society calls familial love. Although, it seems he held various ambitions.



④ I'll kill you and take you apart, then line up the pieces and hang them for show

Zerozaki Hitoshiki's signature phrase no.2.

Usually, before he says this phrase, there is a long preface.

He is a nice guy who would bombard you with all the reasons as to why he is going to kill you and take you apart, then line up the pieces and hang them for show.



⑦ Zerozaki Soushiki

He died.
Though, he fulfilled his goal of finding his little brother. Well, I won't say much.

⑤ Limit Skill

I really apologize, but this also first appeared in the sister "Zaregoto Series"- This is a technique which made an appearance in the 3rd book of the "Zaregoto Series", "Kubitsuri High School Zaregoto Tsukai no Deshi". This is a vague recollection, but I wrote this "Zerozaki Soushiki Ningen Shiken" immediately after "Kubishime Romanticist" and "Kubitsuri High School" went on sale, so there's a high possibility there's a link there (I say it like I'm talking about someone else's work).



Although many string users appear in the entertainment world, I wonder how practical they really are.

Magicians surprisingly seem like they might be able to do it, but I wonder if cutting things to pieces is as difficult as one would expect.



⑩ Zerozaki Soushiki no Ningen Shiken

And so, that was the final volume.

Thank you for reading.
Rereading a novel I wrote 10 years ago from a different angle was a refreshing and interesting reading experience- I'm grateful to the Afternoon editorial department and to Shiomiya Iruka-sensei.

To everyone who read this as a new work, and to those who already read the original work, if you enjoyed the comic version of Zerozaki Soushiki no Ningen Shiken, that makes me all the more happier.

See you again somewhere!



⑧ Aikawa Jun

Mankind's strongest contractor (the real one).
She received a request and was chasing after Zerozaki Hitoshiki (from "Kubishime Romanticist").
Whether in the sister series or this one, because she always carries the image of the strongest, she's an unmanageable character, of all the numerous characters I've designed, she boasts the highest level of strength.
But as powerful as she may be, she often fails at things or makes mistakes and even loses at times, so there might be a chance that Zerozaki Hitoshiki and Zerozaki Maiori will survive that last scene.



⑨ Zerozaki Kishishiki

He appeared in the bangaihen. "Seamless Pious"
Protagonist of the 2nd book in the "Ningen Series", "Zerozaki Kishishiki no Ningen Nokku"- If Zerozaki Soushiki is a heretic of the family, then Zerozaki Kishishiki should be called a model. He is a proper homicidal monster.
... a proper homicidal monster?

This is the end of Ningen Shiken.
Thank you for coming along for the ride.
With this, that's one weight off my shoulder. If possible, see you with the next serialization!



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零崎双識の人間試験(5)

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